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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

September 9th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 36 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 36 **September 9th, 1982**

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About the Cover—

Basking under the glow of a full moon, the famed Montauk light stands a lonely vigil over the Point's heralded waters. Cover photo by Edward Haring.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SEPTEMBER SURF**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
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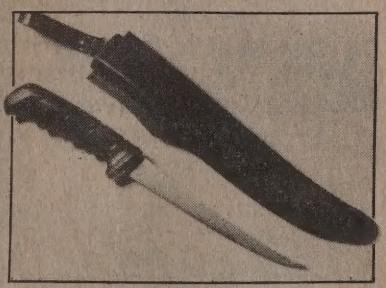

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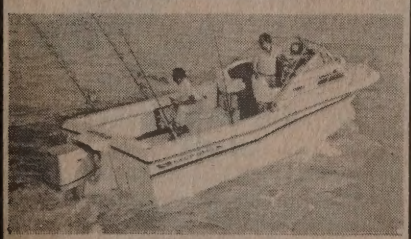

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Pass It On...

SAILING COURSE AT GATEWAY

A 13-lesson sailing course will be given by Flotilla 11-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, beginning Sept. 15, 7:30 PM at Bldg. 272, Gateway Park, Floyd Bennet Field.

The course will be presented by experienced instructors using the Auxiliary's highly acclaimed text book and related instructional materials. A wide area of subjects will be covered, including: How a boat sails: Maneuvering; Rigging; Weather; Rules of the Road; Charts & Compass; Equipment & Radio; and more. Additionally, the classes provide an excellent forum for in-depth questions and answers.

The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels of sailing and family participation is strongly encouraged. The course is offered, with a nominal fee for the test and materials. Upon successful completion of the course, registrants will receive a handsome certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For further information, call Flotilla 11-2, day - Price Givens, 875-1058; evening Tom Lagrutta, 238-9187. Registration night is Sept. 15.

HOUSE VOTES TO PREVENT CUTBACKS IN CG SERVICES

Recently, the House of Representatives approved a bill of major importance to Long Island and to our country. The bill, HR 5617, provides spending authorizations for the U.S. Coast Guard through September 30, 1984. The important fact about this bill is that it provides authority for sufficient federal funding to prevent any cutback in Coast Guard services. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I strongly support its provisions.

For the past 18 months there has been a contuining effort to reduce Coast Guard services. Plans have been advanced to close Coast Guard air and shore stations; to eliminate aids to navigation; to reduce the numbers of Coast Guard ships and planes; and to reduce Coast Guard personnel, oceanograhic research and equipment maintenance.

Such moves, made in the name of economy, are actually the worst sort of "penny wise, pound foolish" economy. Such "economy" cutbacks would, in the long run, prove far more costly to our country and its citizens than any claimed dollar savings in budgeting.

Consider these facts: In a typical year, the Coast Guard saves property woth far more than the entire $2.6 billion budget for **all** Coast Guard activities. This does not include the thousands of lives saved each year by the Coast Guard in missions of incalcuable value. There are additional services of tremendous importance to our Nation performed by the Coast Guard, such as pollution prevention and cleanup; enforcing the 200-mile-limit law to keep foreign fishing fleets from poaching in American waters; and maintaining aids to navigation so vital to boaters in coastal waters such as those surrounding Long Island.

It is the height of folly to reduce such important services.

HR 5617 provides sufficient funding authority to keep all current Coast Guard operations and services at present levels. To me this is the **minimum** needed. We on Long Island know the tremendous value of the Coast Guard and its many missions and services. I trust that the U.S. Senate and President Reagan will also recognize this value, and approve HR 5617, as did the House of Representatives. **Congressman Norman F. Lent.**

NEPTUNE POWER SQUADRON FREE BOATING COURSE

Commander James Sileo, AP, of Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron, a unit of the U.S. Power Squadrons, has announced the Fall boating course schedule. Registration is at 8PM, Wednesday, Sept. 15, at Walt Whitman High School, West Hills Road, Huntington Sta. and at 8PM, Tuesday, Sept. 21 at Northport High School, Elwood Road, Northport. Classes will begin on the same night as registration. There will be a nominal fee of $11 for course material. Late registration will also be accepted before class the following week. The same course will be offered at both schools. Students between the ages of 10-15 may also register for a special "Young Boaters" course to be held at each school on the same nights as the Basic Boating Course. Additional information can be obtained by calling 427-4622 or 421-0774. During the two hour class sessions, students will receive instruction in all the major categories of safe boat handling including: Course Plotting, Aids to Navigation, Chart Reading, Piloting, Safety Afloat, Government Regulations, Rules of the Road, and many more. The last session of the course is reserved for a final examination. The students will have homework which should take from 30 minutes to an hour and the arithmetic needed for piloting navigation calculations is no more complicated than making change or totaling a shopping list.

RICH GIESSEUBEL TO SPEAK AT SALT WATER ANGLERS MEETING

On September 21, 1982, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County are pleased to have Mr. Rich Giessuebel, who writes numerous articles in The Fisherman concerning all aspects of fishing, to speak at their meeting. Mr. Giessuebel, along with Mr. Pete Barrett, Editor of The Fisherman, have been giving instructions to the

public on how to catch and maximize catches of bluefish at various locations in the metropolitan area. Mr. Giessuebel will show an excellent movie and slides on how to catch bluefish, and he will also provide instructions on the finer techniques to catch bluefish that will be informative to the novice as well as those fishermen who consider themselves experts in catching this popular fish.

The public is cordially invited to attend this informative meeting which will start with an opening movie at 8PM on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at the American Legion Post #170 at 33 Passaic St., Rochelle Park, New Jersey. Free refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting.

Anyone interested in additional information on Mr. Giessuebel's presentation or joining the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County can call John Toth at (201) 569-3218 or Al Lorenzo at (201) 796-6572.

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Kunnan has taken the weight and the work out of big game fishing with its Advanced Graphite Big Game Rods.

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1982 FISHERMAN CONTEST LEADERS

(BASED ON SUBSCRIBER'S ENTRIES PROCESSES AS OF AUGUST 15, 1982)

OVERALL DIVISION

SPECIES	WEIGHT	ANGLER	ADDRESS	WEIGH STATION
Flounder	4 lb. 8 oz.	Ken Melnick	Commack, N.Y.	Ronnie's Bait & Tackle
Blackfish	11 lb. 8 oz.	Alan Hahn	Old Lyme, Ct.	Reynold's Marine
Blackfish	11 lb. 8 oz.	Michael Townsend	Bay Shore, N.Y.	Smokey's Bait & Tackle
Codfish	66 lb.	Richard Lombardi	Hoboken, N.J.	Sonnie W
Fluke	12 lb.	Richard Cordier	East Hartford, Ct.	Spicer's Marina
Striped Bass	66 lb. 8 oz.	Dennis Kelly	Sag Harbor, N.Y.	Montauk Marine Basin
Bluefish	18 lb. 5 oz.	John Gutman	Babylon, N.Y.	Captree Bait Station
Weakfish	15 lb.	Allen Neff	New York, N.Y.	Smokey's Bait & Tackle
Pollack	37 lb. 12 oz.	Peter Weiss	Atlantic City, N.J.	Jack Blades Tackle
Bluefin Tuna		OPEN — MINIMUM WEIGHT 200 POUNDS — OPEN		
Mako Shark	371 lb. 8 oz.	Dave Goldman	Mamaroneck, N.Y.	Star Island Yacht Club
White Marlin	118 lb.	Andrew Chalson	Coram, N.Y.	Montauk Marine Basin
Swordfish		OPEN — MINIMUM WEIGHT 100 POUNDS — OPEN		
Brown Trout	15 lb. 4 oz.	Margaret Miller	Centereach, N.Y.	J&R Sport Center
Brook Trout	3 lb. 9 oz.	Michael Concilla	Patchogue, N.Y.	J&R Sport Center
Rainbow Trout	9 lb. 6 oz.	Andy Rintala	Ellington, Ct.	A&B Sport Shop
Largemouth Bass	5 lb. 12 oz.	Will Ward	Niantic, Ct.	Mackey's Bait & Tackle

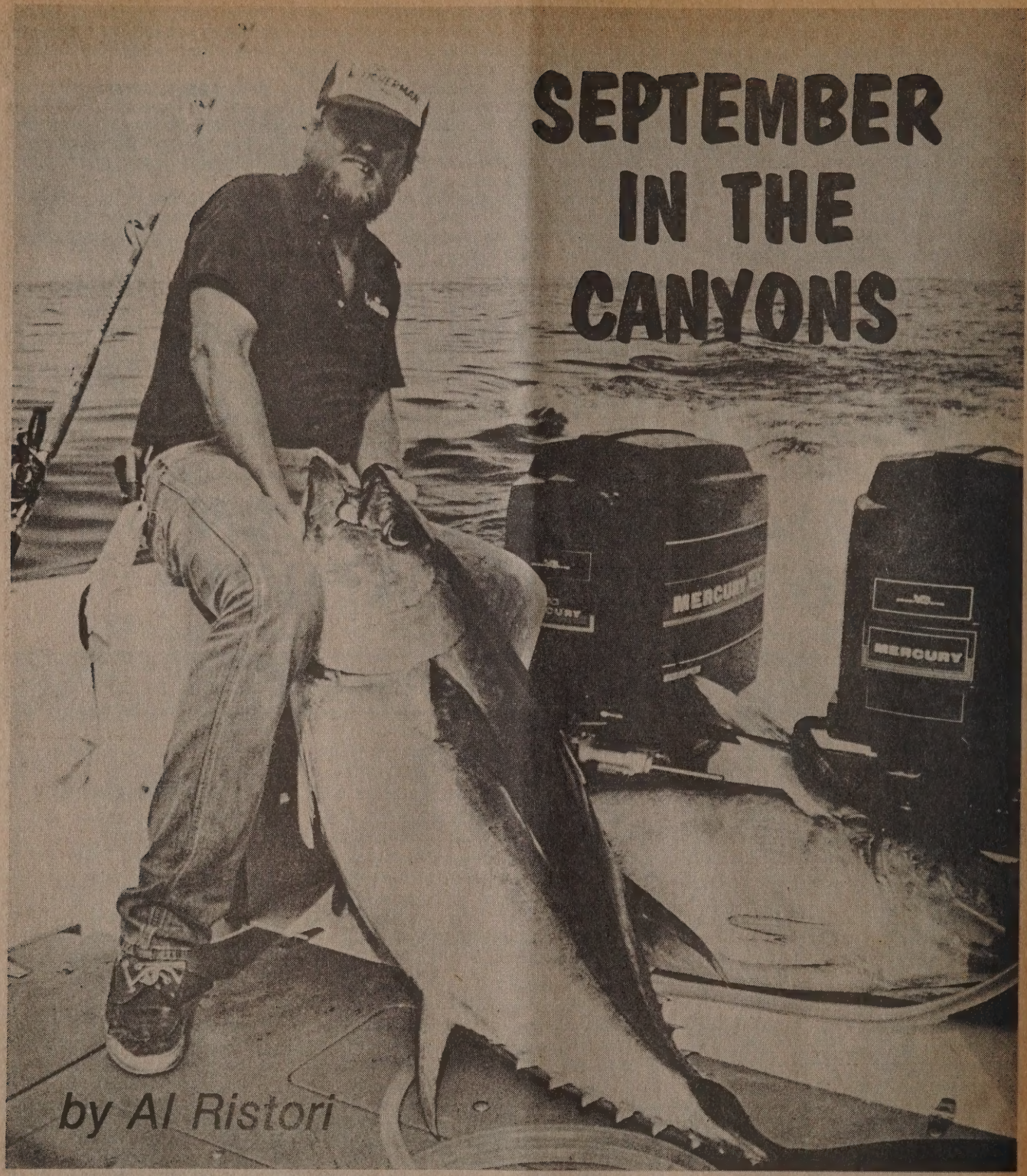
SURF FISHING DIVISION

Striped Bass	37 lb.	Sal Polisi	Commack, N.Y.	Augie's Bait & Tackle
Bluefish	10 lb.	Stanley Hirsch	Ozone Park, N.Y.	Crossbay Tackle
Weakfish	14 lb. 4 oz.	Bruce Farias	Fall River, Ma.	Bucko Bros.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Flounder	3 lb. 7 oz.	Douglas Cohen	Glen Cove, N.Y.	Glen Cove Sport Shop
Blackfish	9 lb. 8 oz.	Remy Alfino	New York, N.Y.	Four Winds Bait & Tackle
Fluke	10 lb. 4 oz.	Scott Hicks	Brentwood, N.Y.	Suffolk Marine Tackle
Bluefish	15 lb.	David DiChiara	West Orange, N.J.	The Fisherman
Weakfish	12 lb. 2 oz.	Ben Ciavolella	Sayville, N.Y.	J&R Sport Center
White Marlin	118 lb.	Andrew Chalson	Coram, N.Y.	Montauk Marine Basin
Brook Trout	3 lb. 9 oz.	Michael Concilla	Patchogue, N.Y.	J&R Sport Center
Largemouth Bass	5 lb. 12 oz.	Will Ward	Niantic, Ct.	Mackey's Bait & Tackle

SEPTEMBER IN THE CANYONS



by Al Ristori

Canyon fishing has become the hottest thing going in the mid-Atlantic states during the months of July and August, but interest falls off rapidly after Labor Day. There are basically two reasons for this. First of all, giant tuna fishing usually hits its peak from late-August to mid-September off Montauk, and from Labor Day into October in the Mud Hole area off the north Jersey Coast. Secondly, the first fall storms start blowing in and anglers get a bit concerned about the possibility of sudden changes in the weather.

These reasons are good excuses for staying inshore, but don't include a lack of fish in the canyons on that list. The fact of the matter is that September may just be the most logical month to fish in the canyons. Water temperatures tend to build all summer and peak in early September. Those early northeasters will start dropping the inshore temperatures and the masses of oceanic species scattered around the Continental Shelf will move back into the warmer waters at the dropoff. This should be especially true of the albacore and yellowfin.

Japanese longline catch records indicate excellent results throughout the fall, with albacore especially becoming ever more abundant. Barnegat Light swordfish longliner Lou Puskus made an experimental drop with a short longline in the canyons last September and loaded up with the various tunas. The fish are there; only thing missing is the fishermen!

As far as the weather is concerned, that's always something of a gamble. The standard marine weather forecasts are notoriously inaccurate, so you must use a lot of common sense in deciding whether to go or stay. The best weather information you can obtain is available through the New Jersey Marine Advisory Service in Toms River. They provide forecasts

for canyon waters from Hydrographer to Baltimore supplied by the Bendix Field Engineering Corporation's Marine Science Services Division. The format includes a weather synopsis and forecast covering wind, waves, swells, precipitation, visibility and an extended three to five day outlook. This information is available Monday through Thursday from 4:30 PM to 9 AM—and then continously from 4:30 PM Friday to Monday at 9 AM. Since the office phone has to be used for this program, please don't call during working hours. The telephone number in Toms River is (201) 349-1152.

There has been some talk of getting this service extended to Long Island, with a phone number at New York Sea Grant in Riverhead. However, the expenses involved have precluded the establishment of a 516 number up to this time. The Weather Service does seem to be interested in improving their offshore forecasts, and a meeting with representatives of the Atlantic Professional Boatmans Association and skippers from the various ports has been arranged by New York Sea Grant in order to review this problem with the weather people. Since government spending cutbacks are a fact of life we have to live with, those who have been using the New Jersey Marine Advisory Service forecasts are requested to drop them a note indicating the importance of continuing this program. Write to Gef Flimlin, New Jersey Marine Advisory Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Agriculture Center, Whitesville Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753.

Up to the point at which this article was being written, we'd had a very odd year in the canyons. Fishing for big-eyes was never better, but the yellowfin tuna catch (the previous backbone of the fishery) has been way off—and albacore catches have been very spotty as compared to last year. The problem may well be cold water. It took a long time for our waters to warm up this year, and by mid-August "green water" temperatures were well above those around the canyons. Montauk charter boats caught lots of albacore and some yellowfin only 30 and 40 miles offshore, while these species were scarce in the canyons. Better albacore and yellowfin catches were often recorded north of the sunken Texas Tower than from there out to the Hudson Canyon. While fishing aboard Capt. Bob Pisano's "Runaway," out of Point Pleasant, in mid-August, we recorded temperatures of only 71 to 72.5 degrees from the tower to Hudson Canyon. Last year, at the same time, water temperatures were up to 79° at the tower—and you couldn't fight off the yellowfins! Of course, water temperature may not be the only factor. A late summer storm last year dropped temperatures at the tower by 10°, but we still caught yellowfins like bluefish in the cooler waters.

There is good reason to believe that the main body of yellowfins has been late in arriving. North Carolina boats experienced their best yellowfin season ever this spring, and there were still quite a few around in early July. Perhaps we'll get a late season surge of these fish in our waters. There certainly was a sharp decrease in the catch made from Hudson to Washington Canyons from June to July 25, as recorded by Bill Figley for the Marine Fisheries Administration of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife. Bill's figures showed a 60% drop in the yellowfin catch made by surveyed New Jersey boats, resulting in an estimated catch figure of 1,792—as compared to 4,485 for the same period in 1981. I suspect that the August drop in the yellowfin catch will be even greater.

The drop in albacore catches for the first portion of the season was just as bad. That estimated total was 1,398—down 55% from the 3,086 in 1981. However, albacore are an especially good bet in the canyons in September—and they are apt to be much bigger than the early season fish. Those albacore caught in the early summer tend to look like they were stamped out of a mold. They usually average about 25-35 lbs., with only an occasional larger one thrown in. On the other hand, fall longfins are common in the near record 50-60 lb. class.

Overall, Figley's figures show a total drop in the early season catch from about 8,300 to 3,800 big game fish. White marlin were down from 484 to 322, blue marlin from 9 to 8, and swordfish from 9 to 0! However, I suspect that the blue marlin catch statistics for August will be much improved. Only in big-eyes was there an increase, and that was a dramatic 102%—from 107 to 216.

Last year's canyon statistics make interesting reading. Figley estimates that the New Jersey canyon fleet consisted of 714 private, 82 charter, and 4 party boats which made a total of 5,473 trips. The average value of the private boats was $90,000, with the value of the fleet placed at $73 million. About $600,000 was spent on charter fees and the cost of fishing the canyons for private boat owners was placed at $11.1 million. The total catch for 1981 was placed at 39,762, with yellowfins (18,200), albacore (14,636) and white marlin (2,564) leading the way. The average yellowfin catch per trip was 3.33, with 72% of the trips producing at least one. The high recorded tally was 31. Boats were successful in catching white marlin on 32% of the trips and scored on albacore 42% of the time. On the other hand, big-eyes were caught on only 11% of the trips, and blue marlin, swordfish, and makos on just 1%.

If you've been disappointed in your canyon results this year, don't give up yet. Pick some good days in September and October and you may be surprised at the results!

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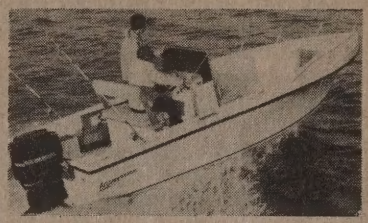

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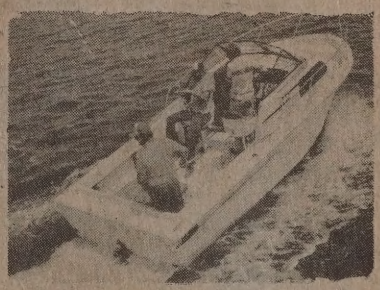

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ONE FOR THE "LITTLE GUYS"

by Ron Onorato

I must say that the glances and stares we got from the rest of the tuna fishermen were enough to kill. At first, I'm sure we were dismissed as nothing but a couple of typical outboard fishermen who generally get in the way of the "real" tuna fishermen. What really convinced them was our 6/0 and 9/0 outfits with 50 lb. rods and no fighting chair in the boat. The fish were big this year, 400 to 900 lb. fish, and these brutes would make short work of any gear lighter than a 12/0 with 130 lb. line, they commented. Before we had embarked on this first trip of the 1981 season, George Oliver and myself were pretty much convinced that perhaps they were right and we were doing nothing more than going through the motions.

The first trip started out with a bang, but it was not a giant tuna that gave us our first shot at some action. We had been one of the first boats out on the grounds and had gotten a good chum line going when the 6/0 outfit went off. Since we had been fishing the outfits in free spool rigged on outrigger clips, and the runoff wasn't really a screamer, we didn't know what we had. Our third member of the party, Bill Bedell, got to the outfit, turned the clicker off and set the hook. Bill struck the fish hard and surprisingly, nothing really happened. The fish made a short run to the bow of the boat, and then did a 360 to the stern and back to the bow. It didn't seem to do the things a giant tuna was supposed to do, yet the fish had weight and it was strong. Then, all of a sudden, the line went slack. Before we had a chance to bemoan our loss, a huge mako shark came leaping out of the water some 100' from the boat with the mono leader trailing from its mouth. We had not lost the fish, but the mako had raced back at the boat, causing us to think that we had lost him. The 500 lb. class mako thrilled us with 11 spectacular jumps before he parted the mono leader. What a way to start a tuna season! By the time the dust settled, the fleet had arrived, and we got back to our tuna chumming.

The next hour passed slowly as we went about the task of chunking and chumming and getting the three outfits set out. When the runoff came, it caught us by surprise. The 9/0 was in free spool without the clicker on when the fish took the herring chunk. This fish was a screamer and nearly backlashed the 80 lb. dacron. The only thing to do was engage the reel and hit the fish. George struck the fish and we were off to the races. This time there were no questions as the 9/0 was nearly emptied in a matter of minutes. We jumped off the float, got the engine going and started after the fish. I stayed at the wheel while Bill took the rod from George and set up our "fighting chair." Our fighting chair consisted of a 155 qt. Igloo cooler propped up against the bow of the Boston Whaler. The rest of the gear was a leather shoulder harness and a leather rod butt holder.

The first thing we had to do was to get the fish out of the fleet. This is usually easier said than done, especially when you have a wild tuna that wants to go his own way. Fortunately, the fish headed to the southeast and away from the fleet. We only had one boat to contend with and the skipper gladly got off his ball for us. So now we had licked the first and the hardest part of the deal. The next thing to do was to get back some of the line that the fish had. We switched positions, and George took the wheel, while I grabbed the rod, and Bill took a much needed rest. George gave a big push on the throttle and I cranked like the dickens as he ran down on the fish. After we had three-quarters of the line back, George eased back on the throttle and slipped her into neutral. Now it was fisherman versus the fish as the engine was killed.

The fish had stayed up on top and had plenty of rest while we ran up on him to get the line. As soon as we shut down, he made a corking run. This time, I tightened up on the drag, and soon the fish was towing the Outrage. George steered the boat in the direction that the fish was heading and we waited. An hour had passed since the hookup, and it was my turn for a rest as George stayed on the rod. Some 20 minutes later, the fish no longer made smoking runs, but began the familiar circle of a tired fish. This continued for another 20 minutes and then the double line appeared. We could see the big fish down some 20' in the gin clear water and it's size awed us. The fish found the energy for one more run, but it was just a half-hearted run of a couple of yards. Once again, the double line came up, and this time I grabbed the dacron and held on for good. The fish came easily and soon the leader was in hand. The fish was now almost dead as Bill hit him with the gaff. A couple of tail ropes, and the big fish was secured to the bow cleat. An hour and 40 minutes had passed since the hookup. We walked the fish back to the stern and slid him into the back of

One of three giants is hoisted up on the dock for weighing.

the Whaler. The fish weighed 566 lbs. back at the dock. Many veteran tuna men dismissed it as dumb beginner's luck.

After that first exciting day, the next three days were nothing but frustrating experiences. We were plagued with being at the wrong spot at the wrong time. Other boats had been hooking up with some degree of regularity while we came up with three big goose eggs. It wasn't easy looking at the scores when you're drawing blanks. However, you can't get out of a slump with the boat tied up to the dock; so we pushed off the next morning hoping to get back on the ball.

The ride over to Block Island was a sloppy one as the increasing southwest wind started to push up around 20. We had gotten a pretty early start and there were four Rhode Island charter boats already fishing by the time we arrived. Our hearts jumped when we saw all four boats fighting fish. We opted for dropping our own ball rather than jumping on an open float, and set the anchor right in the middle of them. George was setting out the first outfit, a 6/0 rig, and Bill was just starting to chunk when a fish grabbed the butterfish. We jumped off the float and started right after the fish. We really didn't have to worry about getting involved with other boats since everyone was fighting fish. Although the fish made a few runs on top, it did most of its fighting near the boat. Surprisingly the fish came up rather easily and some 20 minutes later we had a 350 lb. fish tail roped to the bow cleat.

A couple of dozen Montauk boats had joined the fleet and it appeared that a couple of them were fighting fish. We got back on the float and started to get things going again. Every so often an engine would jump to life and a boat would charge off its float. A really good day was starting to shape up. We had been chumming about an hour when the boat right next to us hooked up. Our heads had barely been turned when the 9/0 outfit sang out. Once again, we got things started and got on the fish. Unlike the first, this one gave us a smoking first run that almost stripped the 9/0. We really had to hustle to keep from getting cleaned out. Once the fish made its way through the fleet, we went to work on the fish. That first smoking run had taken its toll, and after that, most of the fight was up and down rather than straight out. We had the fish alongside the boat after an hour of heavy rod work. Four hundred and ninety pounds of tuna fish joined the other fish on the bow cleat. We were all so overwhelmed at putting two giants in the boat at the same time that we thought about calling it a day right then. The fact that it was only 10AM and the wind had slacked off a bit, persuaded us to stay on for awhile. Besides, getting three fish in one day would be a fantasy.

The fleet had swollen to over 50 boats by now and action had tapered off to just a single boat fighting a fish when we got back to our ball. Once again, we got things going. We chummed and chunked for two hours, and there was no appreciable amount of action anywhere in the fleet. A couple of boats had hooked up, but all the fish were lost. We settled on fishing until 1PM and then wrapping things up. The fish hit at five minutes to one.

This fish was different than the others. This one had the 9/0 down to the metal in less than two minutes and was still going; going right into the middle of the fleet! This was a wild fish, and it seemed as though he was going for every anchor line he could get into. By our own count, the fish had gotten into and miracuously out of 12 anchor lines. We picked our way through the fleet and finally out into open water. George took the rod and I ran the boat up on the fish to get back most of the line. No sooner had this been done when he streaked again, nearly emptying the 9/0 outfit. About now, we were longing for a 12/0 outfit with its extra line capacity. The first hour passed with the fish having its own way. After its fourth big run, the fish made its first wide circle. The runs now were no longer straight out, but in ever-decreasing circles, a sure sign that the fish was tired. But then again, the three of us were nearly totally beat as well. Thirty minutes of circling finally brought the double line into sight. I reached out for it and hung on. I inched the fish closer to the boat, and it looked immense. Finally, color, and Bill hit the fish with the gaff. A hearty handshake was in order after we put a pair of tail ropes on the fish. Since it would not be possible to tow the three fish back, we opted for bringing them into the boat. The two smaller fish slid into the outboard easily, but the last one just wouldn't come in. It took three of us 20 minutes to finally get the fish into the boat. Later, the big fish weighed in at 682 lbs. A fitting way to cap off a triple-header of giants from an outboard!

"Big George" Oliver is dwarfed by 682 lb. giant.

THE MONTAUK EXPERIENCE

by William A. Muller

There are few fishing locations on Long Island like Montauk. That is not to say that good fishing cannot be had at many ports such as Sheepshead Bay, Freeport, Captree, Huntington, Moriches, Shinnecock, Peconic Bay, etc. Indeed, fishing at these other locations is often among the best that Long Island has to offer. Many of these places offer more than just fishing as well. In many places, a family can rent a cottage or a motel room and enjoy clean fresh air, lovely beaches, exciting restaurants, and cool water freezes.

In fact each vacation location has unique advantages to offer, yet over the years, it has struck me and many others that Montauk represents a specific set of smells, sights, feelings, and experiences that can collectively be thought of as THE MONTAUK EXPERIENCE. I would like to share with you, through my eyes, ears, and nose, this Montauk experience.

I have fished Montauk many times over the years and each visit brings to my nose an array of odors that I have never sense elsewhere. I remember my last visit as I drove the car in the gathering twilight of dusk down the road out of the woods that leads into the Town of Montauk from the west. Almost as soon as the stores appeared from behind the trees, I picked up that special fragrance that is a combination of ocean, bay, harbor, oak woods, and beach grasses. In one way it is slightly pungent, yet not offensive, and there is a sweetness to the odor that for brief moment one would swear could be tasted. The summer evening air brings a smell of salt that sometimes seems to cling to the skin and dissolve in the saliva. These are smells that need to be savoured because they tickle the brain as well as the nose.

For all the trips and years I was always struck by an odor that hangs heavy around all the docks at Montauk. No, I don't mean the smell of the fish that are brought back to port or the odor that rises from the bilges. True, there are the smells of oil, gutted fish, ripe chum, sea grasses and the like, but these odors will be experienced at almost any fishing port. No, this is a unique smell that until the other night I had never smelled anywhere else. Several nights ago I was fishing in the surf. The quarry was weaks and bass and these predators were feeding on sand eels as has been common for some years now. However, this occasion the air was still, the air and water very warm, and the sand eels were packed against the beach densely. The sand eels were so dense, in fact, that the slightest disturbance caused the water to pit as if it were raining very hard for about 50' out from the beach. There were two odors: one was that sickly over-ripe smell that weakfish exude, but the other was that certain Montauk smell. However, I wasn't within 80 miles of Montauk. Then I realized that it was the sand eels that gave off that odor. Sure, it made sense! There are always loads of sand eels at Montauk and, in fact, even during the years when there were very few sand eels in Long Island Sound and Long Island Bays, there were still many schools of sand eels at Montauk—particularly during migration periods.

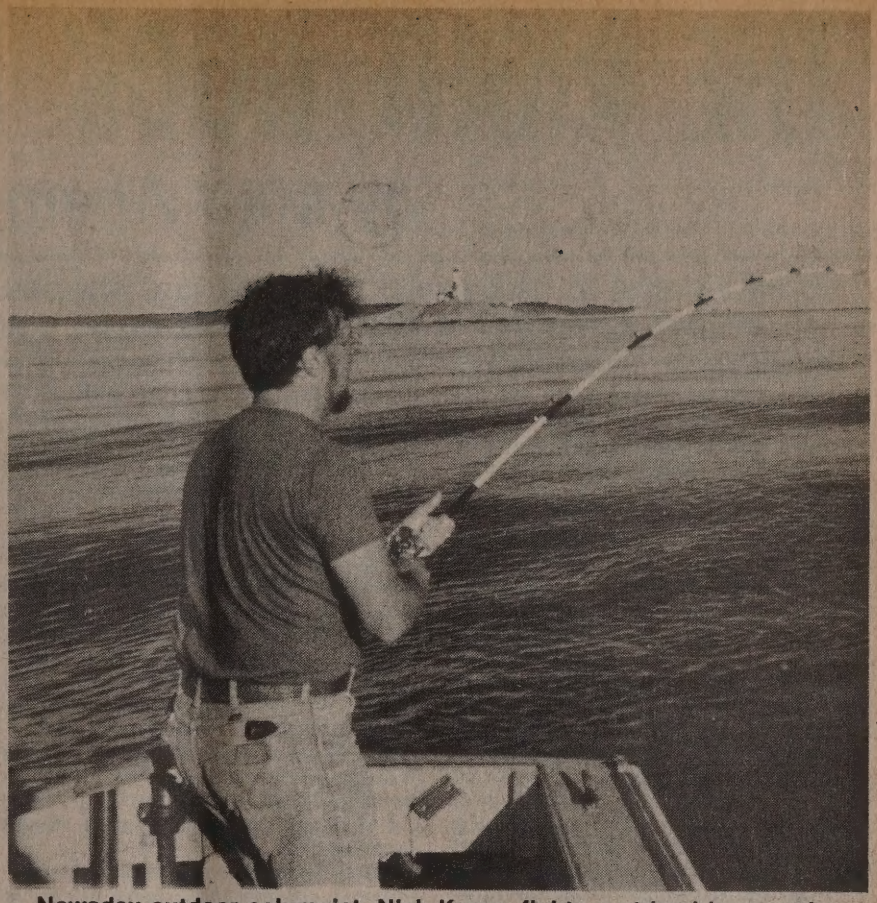
The sights of Montauk are special, too. The low vegetation, because the ground is so meager of nutrients and top soil in so many places. The fish houses, the small brightly painted draggers, the great majestic sand dunes along the south side, the regal cliff just south of the Point, the seafood restaurants with people shedding the need for suits and dresses in favor of shorts and even bathing suits. The sandals that clap along the streets and sidewalks are a ballet of rubber and leather motion. Of course, the Lighthouse is special for many reasons, not the least of which is the constant battle with erosion that pulls sands away relentlessly and brings the Lighthouse ever closer to falling into the sea. The double jettied opening to

Lake Montauk has burned an imprint on my mind and the entire stretch from the Lake to North Bar often looks like it belongs better as the shore of some remote desert island, so barren of people are these reaches of beach.

I can see with my mind's eye the expanse of water that stretches away from the point towards Block Island, and as I scan the sea I imagine the charter boats and party boats that, from this distance, quietly cluster and work for fish. On a clear day I can see Block Island beckoning me. The Block has a lure. It stands there like a sandy-colored and green jewel hinting of its peaceful beauty and the magnificent fish that swim so close to its shores.

Among the sounds that rumble around in my ears even when I am far from Montauk are, the haunting drone of the Lighthouse fog horn, the rhythmic cycling of diesel engines in the quiet early morning as the boats move out into the open water to fish. The chatter from the Coast Guard loudspeaker slices through the air and brings one back to the reality that Montauk isn't Fantasy Island, but a real place where people do real jobs and face real problems. From a motel room I hear the gentle summer surf sliding up the sloping sand beaches with a hiss and the raging winter surf that explodes against the sand and tears away real estate tons at a time. There are the sounds of happy children intent on catching snappers and tinker mackerel from the docks and the voices of people enjoying good food, good company, and good conversation. There is the rustle of the beach grasses as the afternoon breezes build and gust from southwest to northeast. Then there is the loudest noise of all: silence! In the wee hours of the night in summer when the air often doesn't move the silence expands around you so that you are at once in the middle of a place with thousands of people and also alone in a vast universe. In winter the silence can be deafening, especially for those more accustomed to the noise of city life. That winter solitude and quiet has driven those who have been conditioned to the hustle and bustle of civilization mad with loneliness and depression.

But what of the fishing? After all, Montauk is famous for both commercial and sport fishing and this is a fishing publication. Is fishing at Montauk different from other places? I think so. In most ports fishing can be great, but is usually concentrated on one or perhaps several species. At Montauk there are dozens of species being eagerly sought after by someone. There are, present at the same time, during the course of a typical summer, striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, porgies, fluke, flounder, mackerel, sea bass, ling, cod, pollack, squid, blue sharks, brown sharks, makos, white sharks, porbeagles, threshers, tuna, albacore, bonito, marlin, and swordfish, to name some. Because so many species are available there is amost always one or two species that are cooperating with enthusiasm for recreational anglers. This was especially true until about a half-dozen years ago. With even the most limited amount of experience, modest skills, and reasonable effort, anyone could catch at least one type of fish. Somewhat more practiced anglers did even better and more consistently, and on species that are often harder to find and catch such as striped bass.



Newsday outdoor columnist, Nick Karas, fights a striped bass under the watchful supervision of the Montauk Lighthouse.

Clearly, the increase in inshore and offshore commercial fishing pressure at Montauk has eroded some of this abundance, but then it has had that effect everywhere. In spite of the decline in productivity, many anglers enjoy fishing at Montauk because there is great variety and abundance, thus improving the odds for a return on the investment in travel time and expenses.

To add spice and smiles to our memories there are those terribly special fishing experiences that cannot ever be forgotten. There was the trip with fellow surf fisherman Phil to Gin Beach and Shagwong when we blitzed weaks and bass. There was a late November trip when Fred and I fished North Bar and for two days froze our extremities off—or almost so. There was the Great White Shark hunt with Charlie Nappi on the heels of the release of Jaws. We never caught any white sharks, but I recall that expedition so vividly because I don't think I have ever been so sick in all my life and the folks onboard that boat were kind and considerate beyond the call of duty. A bluefish and weakfish jigging session at the Triangle with my son Drew tired our arms to the point where we cried uncle. Perhaps our publisher will remember a long night about a decade ago when we trolled big plugs deep around the point all night and caught nothing. The boat pitched and rolled and as the night wore on we said less and less to each other, but communicated fully nonetheless. The codfish voyage aboard the Montauk when a thundering sea came out of nowhere, crashed through the cockpit windows, and nearly drowned all of us where we sat. There were also the two TV trips—once with NBC and once with Channel 21. Both times the fishing was good and the people delightful. Last, but not least, is the time during a horrendous northwest blow, when my wife Sue and I along with former editor Scott Simons were forced to stay inside Lake Montauk and caught flounder in size and number that would make them envious even in Gardiner's Bay.

What's Montauk? Just another place I guess, but for me it is a potpourri of special fragrances, haunting sounds, striking sights, and both good and bad fishing memories. Montauk is Montauk; but for some it is Mecca, yet to me it is an array of sensory imprints that I hope will be stored and retrieved any number of times throughout a long life.

THE RIGHT HOOK FOR YOU

by Matt Ahern

Hooks come in thousands of styles and shapes. A basic understanding of just a handful of them can help make you a better fisherman.

One hundred thousand. Now ask me one hundred thousand what? Why, one hundred thousand fishhooks, of course. And each separate and distinct in size and style. Can you imagine such a vast number, all varying in one degree or another? Mind boggling. But this is the approximate number of fishhook varieties O. Mustad & Sons of Oslo, Norway manufacture for world-wide trade.

And here you thought your hooks were merely thin, curved bits of tempered steel, having no importance in the scheme of things, something not deserving a second glance. Shame on you! For if these are your thoughts, then, sad to say, I know your fishing results leave much to be desired. You need not deny it—I know. I also know our best fishermen are hook fanatics. They always have been, and they always will be. Strong words, perhaps, but true, nevertheless.

Have you ever noticed that some fishermen are peculiar? Not peculiar in conduct (at least not so that it is noticeable to non-fishermen), but peculiar in the fact that some will cheerfully shell out two days' pay for the latest example of the tackle maker's art, and then renege when it comes time to spend an extra two-bits over and above the going price for a half-dozen fishhooks. Usually these are the fellows who purchase their hooks in the nearest cut-rate variety store, simply because they believe that doing so saves them money. Hah! Nine out of ten times these fellows are only buying cheap, shoddy hooks, which for want of a better name I've dubbed "Hong Kong Specials."

Sure, these fellows save money—but it is costing them fish! If you've been buying hooks in this manner, cease and desist immediately! When shopping for hooks, if you don't find the name Mustad, Eagle Claw, Pflueger, or similar world-famous tags proudly displayed on the package—run, do not walk, to the nearest exit!

I do not wish to become preachy, but have you considered the fact that it is your ten-cent hook that is the only connecting link between you and those fish you are so desperate to catch? The rest of your outfit—rod, reel, line—are only tools to get that hook where it will do the most good. If that hook fails, so do you. Of what use then is your expensive new outfit?

Ever notice the way old-timers work it? While they know the importance of fine tackle and the added pleasure it will give, you'll find them more interested in proper hook selection for the job at hand. (This can sometimes border on fanaticism.) But not to laugh, for this is what makes them good fishermen. And their expertise didn't come easily. They know, for

Captain Clark of Shinnecock Canal's Capt. Clark II, agrees that the Virginia hook produces blackfish.

instance, that because a particular package claims the hooks contained inside are good for porgies, this bit of enlightenment doesn't necessarily make it so. Who made that designation? The hook manufacturer, or the packager? Beats me—but I do know this: all fishermen are better off when they find out on their own exactly which hooks are best for a particular fish.

There is much to know about fish and fishhooks; no question about that. I say this because I've been chasing fish in Long Island waters for 60 years, and to tell you the truth, I don't know all that much about it. Everytime I think I've got something nailed down solid, the next trip proves how little I know. But I do know a bit about fishhooks (which is only because fishhooks do not have a mind of their own). And I found out about them the hard way—through years and years of tough, wearisome, and often discouraging experimentation.

The following is what I've learned about fishhooks as they pertain to our form of angling. It is yours to do with as you will, but I beg you not to treat these hard-gained bits of information lightly—if you wish to increase your catch, that is.

Fortunately, most fortunately I should say, we bottom fishermen need know only a mere ten of those one hundred thousand hooks mentioned before. And you'll find, as I have, that only two of that ten (The Sproat and the Virginia) are actually required to do the job. But those other eight do have their place in our corner of the fishing world and they can be depended upon to do the job when properly used. I'll give you my first-hand opinion of each style as we go along.

Virginia: This one is responsible for my fanatical interest in all fishhooks. I still fondly recall the day I made my first above-average catch of blackfish with this hook. I was all of fourteen at the time and I couldn't wait to tell about it. Naturally, I picked one of the neighborhood old-timers to brag to. After I finished all the details, which I'm sure I unashamedly embellished along the way, the first thing this old-timer asked was "What kind of hook did you use?"

What kind of hook? Um-m-m-m. "A Virginia-Sproat," I replied. He began to grin. "Lad, you're always good for a laugh. There's no such thing as a Virginia-Sproat. You either caught those blackfish on a Virginia hook, or a Sproat hook...they're two different styles. Now—which was it?"

I didn't know. He nodded his head as if confirming his thoughts. "Okay. Bring me the hook and I'll tell you what kind it is." I ran home and returned with a sample. "That's a Virginia hook, lad—the best there is for blackfishing. See that special bend?" And on and on he went, explaining the subtle differences between one hook and another, instilling in me a desire to learn all I could about fishhooks, a desire which still exists today. As that 14-year-old kid of so long ago, I knew only that a hook was a hook. Period. But since those days I've come a long way in my endeavor to learn.

And this is why I believe if your interest lies in blackfish, you should use a Virginia hook. Its specially formed offset hollow point and barb anchors itself quickly and securely in the black's tough jaws. I cannot recall ever losing a blackfish (or any fish) due to the failure of this hook. It is also excellent for most bottom feeders, with the possible exception of fluke and flounder.

Chestertown: We now come to the hook every fisherman recognizes. This thin-wire hook is the flounder fisherman's tried and true friend. And it's been around a long, long time. I know I used it as a kid, and except for minor snelling differences, there has been no change in its appearance. I think there is a better hook to use for flounder (which I'll tell you about shortly), but it is the Chestertown you are likely to receive if you request a half-dozen flounder hooks from your local tackle dealer.

Carlisle: This long-shanked hook is commonly used for fluke fishing. And again, as with the Chestertown, this is the type you'll receive when you ask your dealer for fluke hooks. But this doesn't necessarily mean they are the best fluke hooks for you—only that over the years they have become accepted with no questions asked. And as with the Chestertown flounder hook, there is also one better if you're serious about your fluke fishing. We'll get to that in a minute. I might as well tell you now that I use a Carlisle hook (in its larger sizes) only when I'm wreck fishing for doormat fluke.

Aberdeen: This hook has roots in Scotland—but I never use it. Actually, it is best for freshwater fishing when live offerings are the menu of the day: its exceptionally thin wire enables fishermen to insert the hook with little trauma to small bait fish. I believe it is too thin and fragile for our type of fishing—except possibly for early-season snappers.

Limerick: Probably of Irish root and the one hook I occasionally use for cod (especially when the fish are fussy). Actually, though, this is the commercial codfishermen's trawl-line hook and its oversized eye was especially designed for their use. The Limerick has never let me down. Incidentally, I sometimes use this hook when shore-fishing for fluke.

Kirby: Of English ancestry and designed in the 17th Century, this hook is rugged, long-shanked, and is similar to the Carlisle. A good hook to use when bluefishing with bait.

Claw: A quick-biting hook with a rolled-in point—and a killer for nimble bait-stealers. Extremely sharp. Because this hook comes in so many patterns, care should be taken when ordering. Of American design and manufactured by the Wright-McGill Company, it is widely used. In its larger sizes, it is an excellent cod hook.

Beak: Similar to the Claw in design but much older, it is one of Mustad's largest selling bait hooks. Many fishermen of my acquaintance call this their "suicide" hook.

O'Shaughnessy: Much like the Sproat in design, but heavier, and often with a forged shank for greater strength. This is one hook I'm not thrilled about, although many fishermen use it. Some artificial lures come equipped with these. My experience has shown it takes a little doing to set firmly. Of all the hooks I've used for codfishing over the years, this is the one which has caused heartache. I'm not saying it will cause you difficulty, for certainly we can all learn from each other, but this has been my experience when using these hooks for cod.

Sproat: I have purposely left this hook till last, for it is the most popular of all hooks. I don't think there is a fish anywhere in the world which accepts the baited hook that hasn't been caught on this one. It is strong and penetrates quickly. In its smaller sizes, it is easily returned to shape when sprung. Its cost is minimal, so minimal in fact that it doesn't pay to fuss over dulled points. Rather than resharpen a Sproat, I just toss it overboard and replace. This is the hook (size #6, regular-shanked) I use for all my bay flounder fishing. It is truly a flounder-catcher supreme. I've been using them for at least a half-century and you couldn't get me to return to ordinary Chestertowns on a bet. In size 4/0 (regular-shanked), you cannot beat it for fluke fishing. A word to the wise is sufficient.

So—there's the rundown on fishhooks, with my comments on each. Whether you decide to use these hooks as recommended is entirely up to you. Certainly, not using them won't keep you from catching fish—but I believe they'll help you catch **more** fish should you do so.

I could easily write 50,000 words on fishhooks and barely scratch the surface of what we need to know—hooks are that important to all of us. They are the stuff from which our dreams are made. So, I'll leave you with this: don't sell the fishhook short—ever!

Oh, before I forget. Mustad has put out an intersting bit of information for bottom fishermen. It is called "Mustad's Guide to the Selection of Salt Water Bait Hooks." Most of the hooks discussed in this article are contained within (except Sproat—and I don't know why), and all in actual size. There is also a bit on saltwater baits and how to use them. It's jim-dandy for us guys.

If you'd like a free copy, send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope (#10, business size—4½"x9") to my home at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946—not to the office as this will only cause unnecessary expense and delay. I'll send it off immediately. There is no limit; just add an extra stamp for each Guide.

BUTTERFISH: BAIT OR BREAKFAST

by Bruce Sucher

While snappers get most of the attention on Long Island piers, there are those who can't wait for the arrival of the less renowned butterfish.

Their appearance in local waters is not proclaimed in banner headlines. In fact, most anglers are not aware that they are available. But to a small number of dedicated pier and dock fishermen, the arrival of butterfish is a welcome change from the steady angling diet of snappers, lafayettes and sand porgies.

Shaped like a southern pompano, these silver-sided "panfish of the sea" make their presence known in mid to late August and remain until early October. They do not travel locally, in back bays, in the large ocean-going schools that make them a viable commercial resource. Instead, they travel in small clusters which makes me think they might have strayed from the large schools while being chased up our coast by blues or weaks. Or perhaps they are spawning? Your guess is as good as mine. The fact is, they can be caught by hook and line fishermen and offer a unique challenge.

Unlike the voracious snapper, they are somewhat finicky eaters. Their small mouths and desirability as main course for larger fish makes them extremely timid. For that reason, tackle should be kept on the light side. Since a 1 lb. butterfish is considered large you can put ultra-light spin gear and 4 lb. test line to its proper use. Traditional bamboo snapper poles and those telescoping fiberglass jobs are also fine, but you'll get the most sport from the light spin gear.

Terminal tackle is about as simple as you can get. A short shank beak hook, size 8-10, is tied via a clinch knot to the end of your line. About one foot above the hook, clamp on a BB size shot. I like to use a tiny dime-sized plastic float. Butterfish feed at different depths. Experiment between 3' to 6', and you should do okay. One disadvantage of the short shank hook is that the snappers will be biting you off. Bring along an adequate supply, or use a long shank, #10 Carlisle. If you're after butterfish exclusively, use the short shank which is more easily concealed in the bait.

Best baits to use are shrimp, clam or a tiny cube of bunker. Make sure the bait just covers the hook as too much bait will only make sinking the small hook more difficult. With butterfish it's almost impossible to use too small a piece. As I mentioned earlier, the hit is a very light one, almost ghost-like. Your float will just stop moving or barely submerge. A snap of the wrist will hook your quarry and the fight is on. Because of their flat shape which provides water resistance, they are pretty good scrappers, but no match for a smooth drag and properly used snapper poles.

Another way to catch butterfish is with a snagging rig. This is not the most sportsman like way to go, but you'll probably catch more fish. I'll leave the choice to you. The snagging rig consists of a lead weight of about two ounces, pretty much the shape of a mushroom cap. Eight to 12 Bridgeport snapper hooks are embedded in the lead by their eyes with their bend and points facing upwards. This rig is best used on the bamboo snapper pole and a stiff one at that. The snagging rig is attached to the end of your line and about 6" above it, a hook is attached via a small dropper loop or overhand knot. The small hook is used as a bait holder. Size and pattern are not important. When the hit comes,

The bulkhead at the foot of Knapp St. has long been a butterfish hotspot.

you rear back and, hopefully, snag the butterfish on the hook studded lead weight. If the snagging rig is not available at your local tackle shop, you can easily make one by tying treble hooks in ever-increasing sizes onto a one foot length of 20 lb. leader material. Start off with a #2 and about one inch below that a #1 and then a 1/0, etc., until you get to a 4/0. Just above the smallest treble tie on a #3 barrel swivel. With all those hooks you won't need any lead. Again, tie on a small hook about 6'' above the swivel as a bait holder. It's a fiendish method of fishing, but let me assure you it is extremely effective.

Best spots are in sheltered bays or inland marinas. If you own a boat, you will probably be able to get them right at the dock. My favorite spot is the bulkhead at the foot of Knapp Street in Sheepshead Bay where the ''honey boat'' ties up to take on its cargo of sludge. Obviously fishing is better when the boat is elsewhere. In Sheepshead Bay, any one of the piers will produce these panfish. The best time is when the night bluefish boats are being cleaned and the water is full of chum. For some reason, the sound of generators and wash-down pumps doesn't spook these normally skittish fish. Elsewhere, boat traffic will usually put the whammy on the butterfish and the snappers will take over. The Canarsie Pier, at the foot of Rockway Parkway, is another good spot for butterfish. Early morning is your best bet. Use canned cat food, sardines or mackerel sparingly as chum and you will increase your catches. Chum too heavily and you'll be invaded by snappers.

Take along a heavier rod and live-line a butterfish about 6' below a large float. Hook the fish once just in front of the dorsal fin. A 2/0 beak hook should be just about right. When the hit comes, let the fish have plenty of time to swallow the bait. If the initial hit is a violent one, you probably will not have a hook any more: bluefish. Use a wire leader and try again. Back bays frequently hold a resident population of large weaks, fluke, bass and blues. There's no better way of scoring than live-lining a butterfish.

From giant tuna and mako sharks all the way down to the bottom hugging fluke, fresh butterfish is a great bait. Used whole for the giants, chunked for blues, weaks and bass or as strip bait for fluke, it is extremely effective. The only problem is that pan-fried butterfish is a succulent, melt in your mouth treat. Clean by removing head and viscera; they have scales, but they are almost invisible. Pat dry with paper towels, dip in egg and then roll in flour or bread crumbs. Pan fry in butter or margarine until golden brown and they're ready.

Few fish can match the delicate taste of fresh butterfish. And that's where the problem lies. Whether to use them for bait or to have them for breakfast. Whatever your choice, you will not be disappointed.

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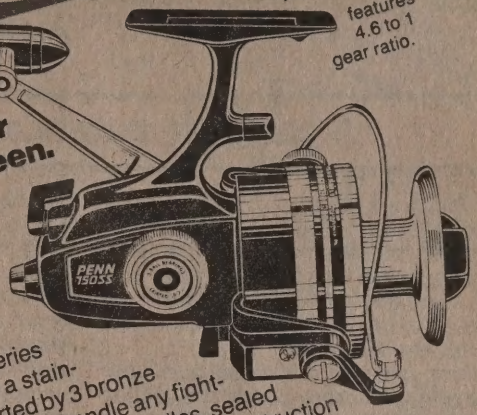

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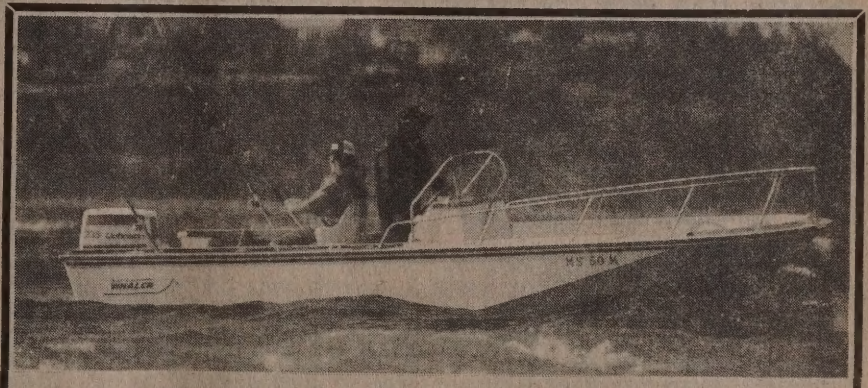

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BEGINNING SALTWATER FLY RODDING

by Lou Truppi

A complete how-to covering tackle, rigging, and methods.

The mystique of fly fishing in saltwater plays on the notion that fly tackle is too light to do the job. Nothing could be further from the truth. Like any other style of tackle, if you choose the right weight tackle you will get the job done.

When selecting a fly rod outfit for use along the Jersey coast, the angler should consider what species he will be fishing for. You can literally use this outfit for a wide variety of fish. These may include fluke to shark and canyon species. The species you should concern yourself with catching, however, is the abundant species that will take the fly readily. In this group I include the striper, bluefish, weakfish, bonito, and albacore. The primary targets within this group should be blues, bonito and albacore. I chose these species because of their abundance and willingness to be chummed. Since these fish seldom weigh over 15 lbs., a medium weight fly rod is well suited to the task. When selecting any fly outfit, the size fish to be sought and size fly to be cast should govern the outfit selection. These species of fish can be brought to the boat so you needn't be worried about having to cast 100' or better to fish. In many instances a cast of 40' is more than sufficient.

Flies that will produce for these fish can be sized 1/0 through 2/0. Line selection can now be made on the basis of the fly size. Suitable lines that will properly cast the size fly are 10 through 12, depending on wind conditions. A good all around choice is a saltwater taper line size 11 matched with a 9½' to 10' rod. Graphite Boron composite rods remain supreme for casting prowess. The standard fiberglass rod will afford less casting ability but bone up nicely to the task of landing your fish. If you plan to eventually tackle bigger fish, choose a rod with a short extension butt and double cork grips for added ease in fishing large fish. The guide should be either large stainless snake style or Fuji single leg, with double leg stripping guides. Reel seat should be heavy duty but the lightest weight you can find. I like double locking rings to prevent loosening of the reel under pressure. Choose all tackle for quality and resistance to saltwater.

Reel selection for smaller fish can be any style single action that will hold your line plus 100 yds. of 30# backing. When larger fish are sought, the reel should be chosen for its quality drag and added capacity. Anti-reverse reels are more practical when fighting big fish. The anti-reverse reel simply allows the drag to function without the reel handle turning. So keep all this in mind when selecting that first outfit. The reel should also be purchased with an extra spool. The initial line choice for Jersey fly fishing should be a sinking fly line while the extra spool should carry an extra fast sinking or lead core shooting head for getting down quickly. You'll find out when pursuing fish off the Jersey coast with the fly rod that your chances are remote to cast to surface fish. When anchored and chumming, the fish will come off the bottom to intercept the bait. They will remain perhaps 10' to 20' below the surface actively feeding on the chum. The sinking line will bring your fly to their feeding zone. So only under special conditions will you be able to use a floating line or surface poppers.

Bluefish will probably be the easiest to catch on the surface whether by chumming or fishing to migratory fish in the fall or spring. Other species such as bonito and albacore may be taken throughout the summer months and into the early fall by chumming. These fish will not readily take surface presented flies so you must go deep to connect. The fast sinking lines will fill this bill. These lines must be extra fast sinking in saltwater due to the currents and water depths you will be fishing.

When attaching backing to your fly line, one method is to nail knot the dacron to your fly line. This affords a good connection, however a spliced loop affords a quick change feature for your lines. To make this connection, simply strip 2'' of coating from your fly line and whip finish using a fly rod bobbin to form a loop about 1'' in length. Coat whipped areas with plio bond cement and blend with graphite dust to reduce friction when the loop passes through your guides. Now splice a loop in your backing that is large enough to pass a whole coiled fly line through it. This type of connection will now allow you to change lines by merely unhooking those two connecting loops.

Forward fly line leader connections may be made several ways. The most popular is the nail-knot splice. This is a good connection and I use it to nail knot a piece of 40 lb. mono to my fly line about 4' long and make a surgeon's knot loop in the forward section. This piece of leader now becomes a permanent part of your fly line. By making end loops in all your leaders, this again becomes simply a matter of interlocking loops to change leaders. Leaders can be level or tapered. For the beginner, the level leaders work fine. The leaders should be 6' long for the sinking lines and testing not more than 12 lb. for the species I have referred to. For the toothy critters such as bluefish, a short trace of wire leader should be used ahead of your fly. Seven-strand, coated wire 18-27 lb. test will serve nicely for blues. Straight piano wire may also be employed but in most instances will garner less hits. Tapered and regulation fly rod leaders must be used when attempting to pursue world record fish.

All these connections, knots and leader design formats may be obtained in a book written by Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh entitled **Practical Knots.** This is a good book to secure if you intend to seriously advance in saltwater fly fishing.

Various style flies and poppers will produce when fly fishing in saltwater. I lean to the white/red and White/blue combinations. I've also found variations of green/yellow and blue/yellow to be very effective. I prefer to tie mine with thick mylar bodies to present a wide silver or gold side to the fish. Most saltwater fly choices can be decided very simply. Try to match the local baitfish when trying your pattern. When chumming, a white or yellow fly may be used to be drifted with the chum. This trick has worked for me all over the New Jersey coast.

Simply keep in mind that saltwater fly fishing is not very difficult when you pursue the proper species. There isn't much fun in pursuing striped bass via the fly rod when their catches are so incidental in our area. You're better off pursuing the blues, weaks and bonito which are plentiful and will readily take a fly. So there you have it: a fast rundown on an easy approach to saltwater flyrodding.

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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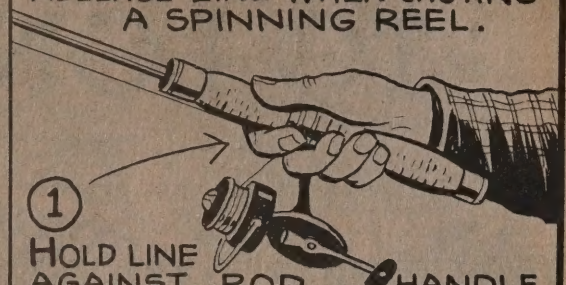
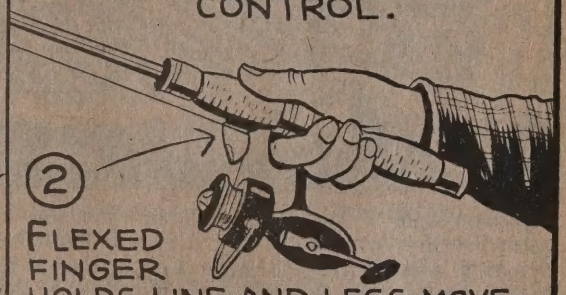
KERNEL CORN

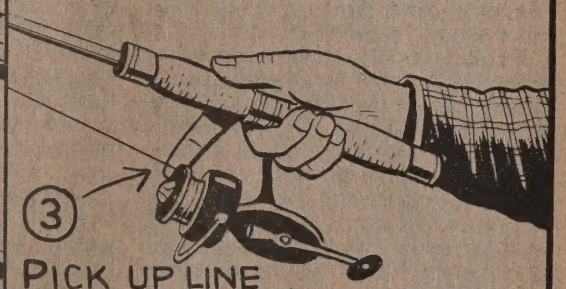
THREE WAYS TO HOLD AND RELEASE LINE WHEN CASTING A SPINNING REEL.



① HOLD LINE AGAINST ROD HANDLE, LIFT FOREFINGER TO LET LINE GO, THEN PLACE FINGER ON LIP OF SPOOL FOR CONTROL.

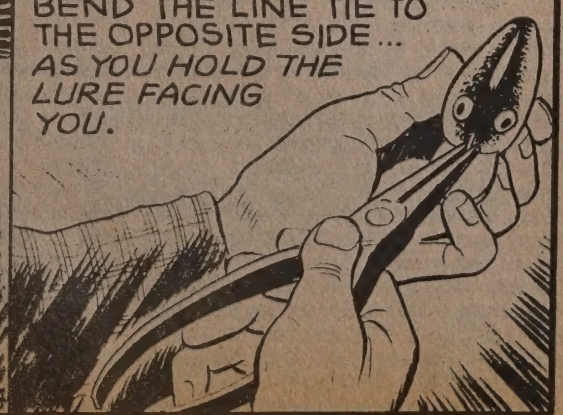


② FLEXED FINGER HOLDS LINE AND LESS MOVEMENT IS REQUIRED TO RELEASE ON CAST, BUT IS OUT OF POSITION TO FEATHER SPOOL.



③ PICK UP LINE WITH FINGER, THEN LOWER TO LIP OF SPOOL. *HARDER TO DO* BUT LEAVES FINGER IN PERFECT FEATHER POSITION.

SOME LURES DO NOT RUN TRUE AND MAY VEER TO ONE SIDE. TO CORRECT ACTION, BEND THE LINE TIE TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE... *AS YOU HOLD THE LURE FACING YOU.*



THE TROPICS COME TO LONG ISLAND

by Gerald Hahn

A decade ago, I caught a banded rudderfish on a worm while fishing for porgies in Gardiner's Bay. How the oddball fish had wandered to Long Island was beyond me, for I have not caught another since that time. Rudderfish live in the warm waters of the mid-Atlantic.

Several years later, a tackle shop owner showed me a small fish neither of us could identify. It had been taken on the bottom of Moriches Bay by a flounder fisherman. The fish was dark green and triangular in cross-section and had pale markings on its sides.

I wouldn't want to make a fishing career out of pursuing exotic fish like these in the wrong places. If I want to catch tarpon, I head to Florida, not Long Island. Then again, catching fish in Long Island that normally reside elsewhere is not so unusual.

No doubt, the best month to land a warm water fish on Long Island is September, and the most likely surf spots are along the south shore. For at this time, the Atlantic Ocean has been thoroughly warmed by the summer heat, and many migrating species—predators and bottom fish—feed in their northern ranges. Last September, for example, I ran into a school of tropical fish at Shinnecock Inlet. I had been fishing for two hours for tautog when I turned to the ocean side of the jetty and noticed a school of frightened baitfish skitter across the water. Reasoning that the baitfish were being pursued by large snapper blues, I decided to investigate. To be sure, the one meager blackfish I had taken had something to do with this decision. I switched to a light outfit, a 6' spinning rod with a Daiwa 1300 filled with 8 lb. test and tied on a one ounce Kastmaster. As soon as the lure contacted the water, I felt a strong jolt and began reeling in. At first sight, I was perplexed by what I presumed was a silver butterfish. But butterfish, of course, are not known to chase lures. In fact, most of the time they're too busy being chased by other fish. When I noticed the yellowish color bordering the fish's silver body, however, I realized that I had intercepted a member of the jack family on his way to Florida. The catch, moreover, was not accidental, for small jacks are school fish, and I was soon landing one after another. Later that week I heard that larger specimens in the 2 lb. class had been taken on worms by anglers to the west, in Moriches Bay.

The jack crevalle, **Caranx hippos**, is a pelagic fish found largely in tropical waters. The fish has a flattened body, like a butterfish or a porgy, and a silvery color tinged with yellow. A large, bright yellow tail and anal fins and long pointy pectorals, clearly separate this aggressive predator from the aforementioned species. Although the jack has a blunt head, like a butterfish, his mouth is filled with small razor sharp teeth. The most distinguishing mark, however, aside from a large spot on the gill cover, is the Jack's curved lateral line, which straightens in the rear and takes on bony protuberances or scutes. Lastly, the jack crevalle, like the sea robin and the weakfish, would make a good percussionist what with his ability to make rhythmic croaking sounds.

Down south, the jacks have numerous relatives, including the amberjack, permit and pompano. Diminutive jacks are quicker than snapper blues and certainly as vicious, especially when they are on a feeding binge. In fact, both species are fond of corralling large schools of baitfish before tearing them apart. King-sized jacks are much larger than chopper blues, however; specimens over 40 lbs. are common in Florida. Large jacks are also harder to catch than blues, since they usually swim alone or in pairs.

Catching small jack crevalles in Long Island is not unusual. In late summer you can fish for them from the south shore inlets the same way you fish for snappers. A quicker retrieve and whippier rod action will yield more strikes, however, for jacks can easily outswim any metal lure under an ounce.

Another visitor from warm climates is the trigger fish, a resident of the mid-Atlantic. South side blackfish anglers catch them in the spring and especially in late summer. The trigger fish, **Balistes vetula**, can thrust his sharp dorsal spine at an adversary quicker than a Samurai warrior can draw his sword. More than one predator has been discouraged from making a meal out of him. The trigger fish, like the blackfish, has a tough hide and larger incisor teeth; he also has a slim body, which he uses to slip between narrow crevices among rocks, reefs and wrecks. Both species have similar diets, consisting of mollusks, seaworms and crustaceans, and consequently, fishing methods are identical.

In the spring, trigger happy anglers use worms and clams, but in the late summer, crabs are favored. Small fiddler crabs or green crabs cut into bite-sized pieces are excellent for small-mouthed trigger fish. These baits should be impaled on a rig intended for blackfish; that is, a #4 to 6 Virginia hook (the smaller #6 is better for catching trigger fish) snelled on a 12" leader of 40 lb. test. Although trigger fish seldom exceed 3 lbs., heavy tackle is essential for fishing in rough terrain, and a stout 8' jetty rod with a strong reel filled with 20 lb. test should be considered. The single

hook is tied about 3'' to 6'' above an end loop for the sinker. A dropper loop on the main line secures the hook. The inlet's rough currents and rough bottom formations require bank sinkers weighing 3 to 5 ounces.

On the south shore, Moriches Inlet and Shinnecock Inlet are good places to find trigger fish mixed with blackfish. In the late summer of '75. the triggers equaled the tautogs, and last season, too, many trigger fish were taken at both inlets. Those accustomed to fishing for tautog need no counseling, but inexperienced anglers who want to try for trigger fish are advised to make short casts, develop quick reflexes and maintain a tight drag setting on the reel. Trigger fish, like blackfish, make quick-on-draw raps on the line, followed by a strong downward surge. Therefore, the fish should be struck quickly and the rod raised high.

Fish that are considered exotic in one place, of course, are common in other places. In Cape Hatteras, trigger fish are as prevalent as New York traffic jams, and in Florida, no one would make a fuss about catching a mini-jack crevalle. Heading north from Rhode Island to Maine, pier fishermen catch small mackerel the way we catch bluefish snappers. In Maine, moreover, snapper-sized pollack are taken, as well, and there, a snapper's as exotic as a jack is to us. Which reminds me of the codfish trip I took last summer out of Maine's Boothbay Harbor. I hooked what to me was an ordinary New York ling, but the astonished captain, Bill Bibber, said, ''What's a warm water hake doing here?'' Then again, State of Mainers regard anything warmer than 20° as tropical.

On the other hand, some species are common in various places, yet they are sought in one and rejected in another. Take squid, for example. I often see schools of these cephalopods swarming on the surface on summer nights, yet I wouldn't dream of catching one. In all my life I have caught—quite by accident—about half a dozen squid, while fishing for fluke. In New England, however, many party boat anglers are so fond of squid, they will dismantle their cod rigs as soon as they spot a school. How do you catch squid? With a squid jig, of course. The jig resembles an artificial plug in front, but instead of treble hooks, it has two circular rows of metal spikes in the rear. When the jig is lowered, the spikes remain flush with the body; on the retrieve, they flare out and snag squid, somewhat the way a weighted treble hook snares bunker.

After catching your twentieth snapper without a thought, a jack crevalle will surely give you something to ponder. After your fifth tautog, so will a trigger fish. Try Long Island's south shore in late summer, and you have a good chance to land an ''exotic'' species and marvel at the distances some fish travel to stay alive.

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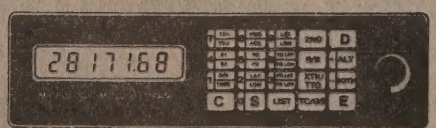

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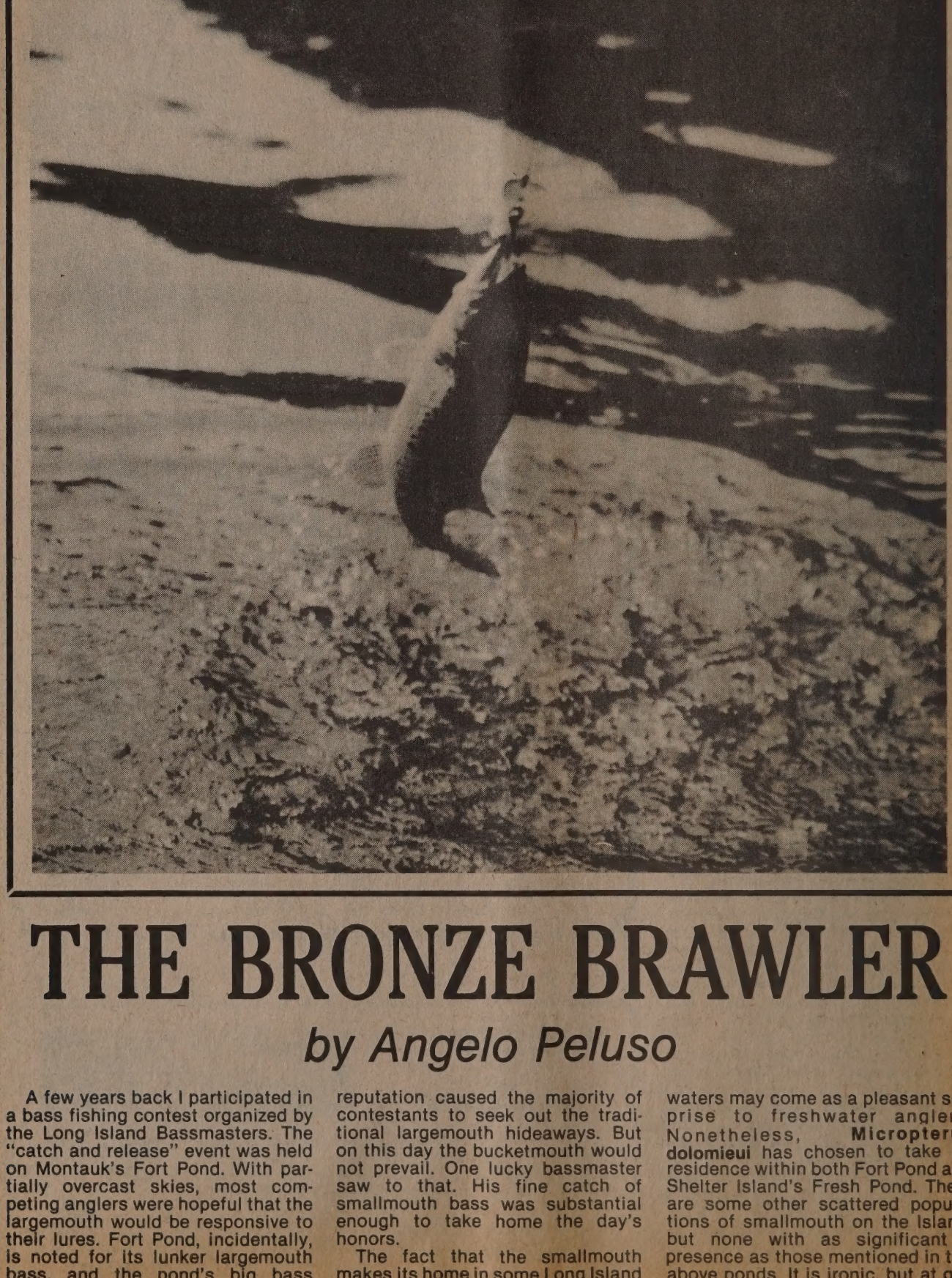

THE BRONZE BRAWLER

by Angelo Peluso

A few years back I participated in a bass fishing contest organized by the Long Island Bassmasters. The "catch and release" event was held on Montauk's Fort Pond. With partially overcast skies, most competing anglers were hopeful that the largemouth would be responsive to their lures. Fort Pond, incidentally, is noted for its lunker largemouth bass, and the pond's big bass reputation caused the majority of contestants to seek out the traditional largemouth hideaways. But on this day the bucketmouth would not prevail. One lucky bassmaster saw to that. His fine catch of smallmouth bass was substantial enough to take home the day's honors.

The fact that the smallmouth makes its home in some Long Island waters may come as a pleasant surprise to freshwater anglers. Nonetheless, **Micropterus dolomieui** has chosen to take up residence within both Fort Pond and Shelter Island's Fresh Pond. There are some other scattered populations of smallmouth on the Island but none with as significant a presence as those mentioned in the above ponds. It is ironic, but at one

time it was rumored that Fresh Pond was to be targeted for reclamation. It wasn't until local anglers described an upsurge in smallmouth activity, indicating a revitalization of the lake, that the project was scrapped. Lucky thing for all parties concerned, the fish as well as the fishermen.

Fort Pond has remained a consistent producer of Long Island "smallies," and many fine fish have come from its waters. An angling buddy of mine caught a lunker smallmouth from its haunt within the pond that weighed in at five pounds one ounce. That is certainly a nice fish anywhere in the state. Though five pound plus fish are not very common, this catch is indicative of the growth potential. It is difficult to speculate on the upper limit of size, but a reasonable guesstimate would be somewhere around six pounds. It wouldn't at all come as a surprise if a fish somewhat larger were to be caught. Long Island waters are full of surprises.

Though limited in scope and range due to their confinement within but a few bodies of water, the smallmouth can still offer fine sport to those who endeavor to take pursuit. The bronzeback is an unquestionable brawler and its fighting qualities, once experienced, are not forgotten. The fish is a magnificent aerial performer whose jumps quite often dislodge the annoying hook and toss it back into the angler's lap. It was the smallmouth that inspired Dr. James Hendshall's immortal quote citing the fish as the toughest "inch for inch and pound for pound."

Let's now take a look at this superb gamefish. The smallmouth was native originally within the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and the Ohio, Tennessee and upper Mississippi Rivers. It has since been stocked in all areas of North America. Though a member of the sunfish family, as is its closest relative, the largemouth, the smallmouth differs in many ways. Its physical characteristics are the most obvious, and it can be distinguished from the largemouth in the following ways:

•The upper jaw of the smallmouth extends to the middle of the eye, whereas in the largemouth it extends beyond.

•The cheek scales are smaller than those of the largemouth.

•Blotch-type stripes appear on the body of the smallmouth.

•On the smallmouth, there is a shallow notch between the dorsal fins (the largemouth has a deep notch). In addition, the smallie has 14 soft dorsal rays.

•The smallmouth's coloration takes on a bronze hue, hence the nickname "bronzeback."

Unlike its big-mouthed brother, the smallmouth prefers colder water over a sandy or gravel bottom. Additionally, this bass also prefers moving water and in some instances rapidly moving water; smallmouth bass, therefore, do take up residence in streams, rivers and in such locations as dam spillways.

The smallie is also attracted to rock-type structure, either visible to the angler or the sub-surface variety. Structure formations of this type are the primary fish attractors within Long Island's smallmouth waters. Rocks that are located in or around deep water (15-25 feet) should be investigated as potentially productive hot spots. Fort Pond has several such locations.

The fishing techniques used for smallmouth bass are somewhat different than those used for the largemouth. The angling differences are primarily attributed to differences in habitat and basic habits of the fish. Though both basses are warm water species the smallmouth has a marked preference for "cooler" water. In Long Island waters this means that you will probably find them in deeper locations, on average, than you would the largemouth. Within the spring fed ponds of Long Island, locating the spring itself can be very rewarding. This is a natural fish attractor which, in essence, provides the smallmouth with a temperature controlled environment. Should the spring be located in deep water, have some form of structure near it and be positioned with access to shallow water, you might very well have found a smallmouth "honey hole." The deep water and structure provide the bass with a sanctuary; the spring's cool waters create the right comfort zone; and the shallow water access facilitates feeding migrations.

Many of the lures, baits and techniques that are successfully used for largemouth bass will also work quite well on the smallmouth. For Long Island bronzeback fishing I am partial to crankbaits, sinking minnow-type plugs (Rebels, Rapalas) and small jigs or grub tails. My number one favorite is the Rebel Wee R or Super R crankbaits in white or crawdad color. These plugs will rest motionless on the surface until a retrieve begins. Then they dive to depths of between 5-15 feet (depending on the speed of the retrieve and the size of the plug's lip). If rock structure is present a proven technique is to cast the crank bait beyond the rock or set of rocks and retrieve so that the plug passes close to the rock and diving toward the bottom. Manipulation of the lure through retrieve speed control and tip action is the key. My choice of white for the plug's color is due to the prevalence of white perch in much of Long Island's fresh water. A versatile selection of crank baits is advisable for fishing Long Island smallmouth areas. One's arsenal should include a variety of plugs, each of which will swim in a

(Continued on next page.)

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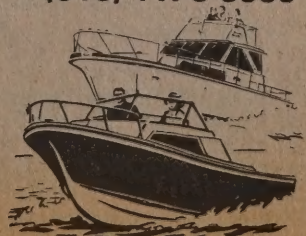

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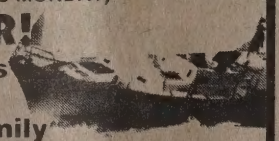

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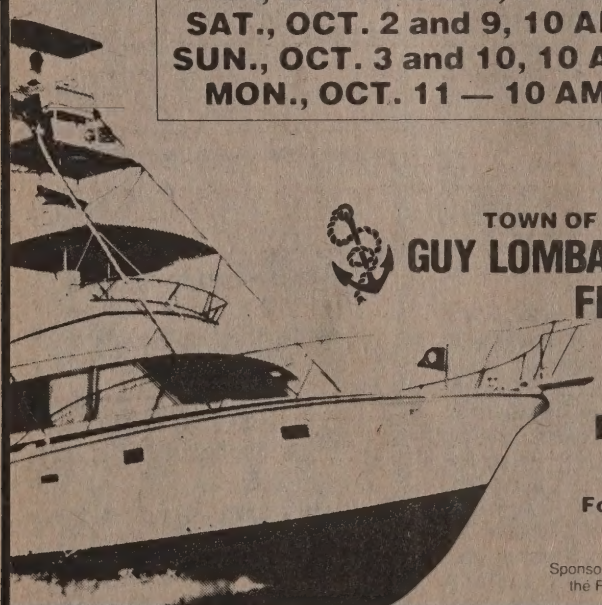

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different depth range.

Another good plug choice is the sinking minnow-type lure. It can be cast and allowed to sink to the desired depth before the retrieve is begun. Some of the largest smallmouth bass taken from L.I. waters have succumbed to this plug. Fished in the "countdown" fashion, the plug can be used to search out different depths for bass. This system is quite simple. Just cast the plug and allow it to sink while you count off seconds. Your counting corresponds to the rate of the plug's descent. For each successive cast count a bit higher before retrieving. This is an easy way to work a deep stretch of water and pattern your search for the fish. A silver and black or a silver and blue pattern seem to be the most productive. So does the brown and black variety. I guess that these color combinations work well for me because they are the ones that are most often tied to the end of my line. I am sure that other color mixes would also work quite well.

Full sized plastic worms, 6-8 inches, don't seem to be as appealing to the smallmouth as they are to the largemouth. Yet, I have had success with small, four inch versions and little grub tails. Another good choice is the small white grubs that have life-like, flexible tails which undulate when retrieved. The grub can be rigged either Texas style, with a small hook and slip sinker, or jig style with the hook protruding through the grub. This little set-up can be deadly when smallies are feeding near the bottom. Just cast the grub and let it sink to the bottom. Retrieve it with slow, jigging motions. Occasionally vary the retrieve by long, upward sweeps of the rod. When using the grub tail be ready for takes as the grub begins its descent. Either a slight tap or a twitch of the line could signal a hit. Get ready to strike.

Last but not least in my arsenal of smallmouth lures are the time-tested spinners. I don't like using large safety pin type spinnerbaits for smallmouth, but I will use the small 1/8 ounce size with a single blade. White, yellow and chartreuse work very well for me. The spinnerbait can be cast and retrieved in a steady fashion or allowed to flutter the bottom and jigged back to the boat. The more conventional spinners, the Mepps and C.P. Swing types also produce fine results. Fished in traditional fashion you simply cast and retrieve, alternately varying speed. For fishing these baits you can also employ the countdown method discussed earlier.

The smallmouth is a superior freshwater gamester. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to fish for it. Next time you get the urge to go freshwater bassin', think smallmouth. You'll enjoy what awaits!

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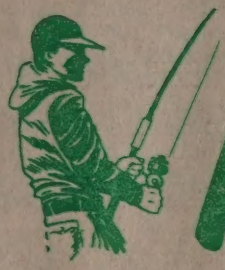

The FISHERMAN

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARD PROGRAM

Anyone is eligible to enter **The Fisherman Skillful Angling Award Program.** Anglers meeting the required minimum weights for the species listed below will receive a certificate and patch. Fish must be weighed at an **Official Fisherman Weigh Station.**

SPORT FISHING AWARD COMPETITION

Only subscribers are eligible for the **Sport Fishing Award Competition.** Winners will be divided into three categories: Overall, Junior Division (youngsters 16 and under), and a Surf Fishing Division in which only bass, weaks and blues are eligible. Subscribers landing the largest of a species in each category will receive a plaque in recognition of their catch.

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Blackfish	5
Codfish	30
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Species	Min. Wt.
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East End Report

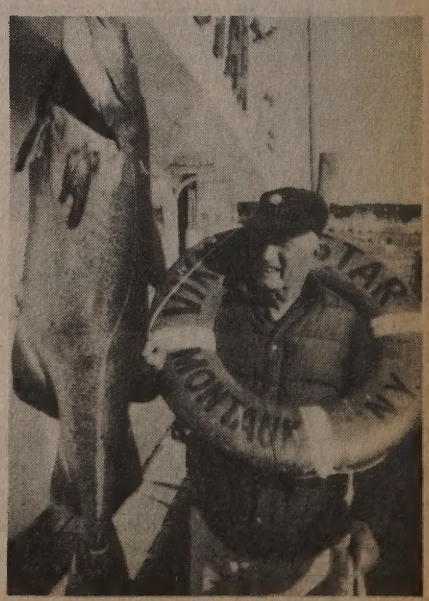
by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Reports are generally very good from the Island's easternmost point. The report from Capt. Buddy Dorman of the 6-man limit open boat **Waxed** reports excellent porgy fishing under his boat. All week was super, including Saturday and Sunday. Sunday, Bud was back at the dock at 3PM with fares averaging 86 porgies each. High hook was Alberto Knie who hoisted 145 porgies . Second high hook was Dominick Chu with a 123 porgies. Both anglers made the trip from Manhattan. See LIF ad for fall open boat striped bass and weak starting dates.

The porgy picture has taken a sharp upswing for the Point's porgy boats **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud**, both vessels reporting good porgy fishing locally all this past week, with fish mostly in the large category. High hook of the week filled a large bushel basket with porgies. Captain Dusty says that the fish are there, so come on down and bag up.

From Capt. Phil Lewis's charter boat **Adios** we hear that Tom Violagis of the Wine Gallery, East Meadow hooked and landed a 425 lb. giant tuna in just 45 minutes while on Wednesday's trip for Ira Link, a 200 lb. class tuna was captured. Saturday's trip for Mark Fernandez resulted in a 206 and 225 lb. mini giants caught. These fish were taken on trolled butters and herring south of Block



John Jones, of Montauk, and the 50 lb. cod he caught recently at Cox' Ledge aboard the "Viking Star."

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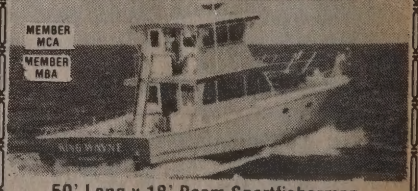

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Charley, Bob, Tom and Bob's dad with 33 weaks to 10 lbs. and a few blues taken on Ava jigs aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

Island.

Capt. Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** tells of excellent offshore fishing and that the fall shark run has begun. Lots of big blue shark around from 200 lbs. and up. He's been getting at least two makos in addition on every trip. The inshore fluking and bluefishing remains good to very good. Saturday's trip saw 68 fluke go into the fish box with 26 of them going over 7 lbs. each. The largest was an 11½ lber. They also had plenty of porgies.

A 505 lb. giant tuna was the reward for Dr. Mervin Peskin of Manhattan Friday aboard the charter boat **Ebb Tide.** The skipper also tells of very good sharking and also solid inshore catches.

The word from Capt. John "Wizard DeMaio is that Jeff Sherer on a trip Thursday afternoon cast to and caught 4 bass to 30 lbs. On Friday a 37 lb. striper was taken on a jig and this fish now leads in the boat's big bass contest. John says right now he's finding the best fluking he has seen in years, with 30-40 fluke taken per trip. These are big fish being found on the south side and at North Rips.

Aboard Capt. Fritz Hubner's **Mistress Too** we hear of excellent giant tuna fishing and excellent catches of mini giants. On Monday Martin Hirsch of NJ bagged a 475 lb. giant. Martin was back Tuesday and brought to the boat and released an estimated 600 lb. giant. Saturday's charter had 4 mini giants for a Great Neck party trolling baits. Daryl Lieberman had a 182 and a 167 lb. tuna while Howard Singer scored with a 208 lb. mini brute and Ira Goodstein decked a 220 lb. mini giant. Sunday's charter for the Mike Anderson party, Southampton scored with a 213 lb. mini giant. Monday's trip for the Wuillamey family, NJ took 8 big blue shark to 250 lbs. which were tagged and released. Lorraine W rang the bell with a 105

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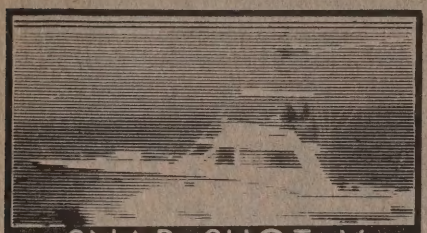

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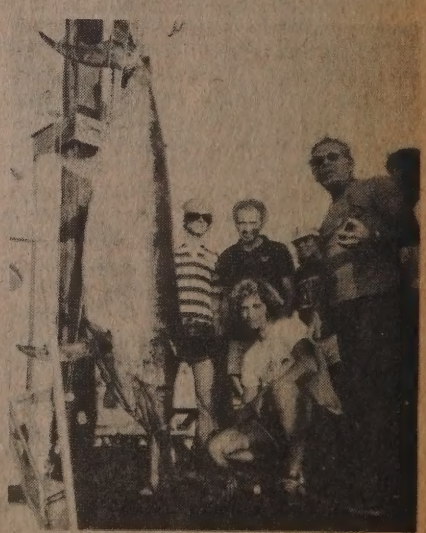
lb. mako. Fish were taken both south of the Point and east of Block Island.

Aboard Capt. John Keller's **Bronco Explorer** the trip covering Wednesday and Thursday for Charles Lazarus, Southampton boated 4 out of 10 big eye tuna. The fish went 175, 215, 280 and 327 lbs. They also had 49 albies and 12 yellowfin tuna from 25-80 lbs. fishing east of the Fish Tails on Clones and Jetheads. The weekend overnighter for the Caragilano party, Little Neck totalled 6 big eyes running 180/315 lbs. and 51 albies from 25-60 lbs. fishing west of the Fish Tails at the 300 line. The big eyes were taken on Kona Clones. John reminds you that September is the hottest month of the year for offshore tuna fishing.

From **Gone Fishing Marina**, comes word that the striped bass tournament held this weekend saw a lot of fish caught and entered. First place went to Artie Johnson with a 52.11 bass; 2nd place went to Dennis Kelly with a 51.2 striper while 3rd place also went to Dennis with a 43.7 bass. Dennis also won the Abu Garcia Rod and Reel for total weight which was 242 lbs. 11 oz. Fluking on the south side remains excellent with 10 and 11 lb. fluke common. Arnie Fox of Teaneck, NJ on Sunday bagged a 19 lb. fluke taken on a strip bait (sea robin side with skin and scales on) on incoming water. Frank Bussutil fishing on Blue Lady took 4 bluefin tuna Monday to 238 lbs. This was 12 miles south of the Lighthouse on trolled bait. Porgy catches have increased tremendously this past week.

SOUTH FORK

From **Sag Harbor** we get word from Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric II** that the porgies remain good but the fish are on the move. Ray Huhe of the Bronx bagged up with 76 porgies to 3 lbs. Saturday at the same spot, found



The Mountain High returned to Montauk Marine Basin with this 471 lb. swordfish. The big broadbill was taken out at Block Canyon. Photo courtesy Captain Bill Hojohn.

Vinnie Panichi hefts the 10 lb. doormat fluke he caught in Montauk's North Rips. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

the fish gone completely. Inconsistency is the name of the game right now. Action has been picky in New Lond, London but shows signs of possible improvement. Tuesday and Wednesday's fluke trip saw excellent fluking off Gardiner's Island. Fish were all keepers and the pools went in the 4-5 lb. range. If the fluking is strong next week also, the season will be extended for another week and the boat will be fluking Sept. 14 and 15 also. If it doesn't look promising, those days will be for blacks and flounder. Call the captain if any questions.

Helen at **Noyac Marina** knew that a good number of big porgies and small weaks have been hitting between the Monastery and Long Beach. The porgies will take worm, squid or clam on tiny hooks while the weakfish are being taken on squid strips on hi-lo rigs. Note that the station will be open 7AM daily, but closed Wednesdays.

The **Shinnecock** open boat **Capt. Clark II** will be sailing Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only until Dec. 1st and offshore wreck trip for sea bass and blacks is planned for Saturday, Sept. 11.

Speck's Bait and Tackle in **Southampton** tells of blues in 90' to 100' of water due south of Shinnecock Inlet, these being 8-10 lb. fish. Some stripers in the jetty vicinity with eels a best bet for bait. Flounder action in the bay is on the upswing at the Basket, Cormorant Point and Ponquogue Bridge. Fluking has slowed. Snappers and small blues all over the bay on small tins. The Canal has a lot of snappers in it. The Peconic Bay channels have started producing flounder once more and catches of blowfish are being made south of Jessup's. Also being caught there are sand porgies up to 1 lb. and snappers.

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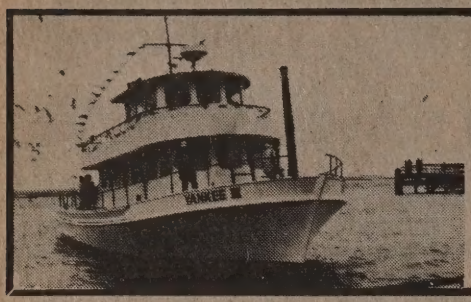

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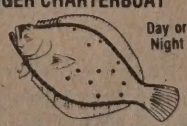

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South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

The south shore fishing picture continues to change as September tightens it's grip on the Island. Flounder and blackfish are both fast becoming staples on the menus of sinker bouncers although fluke should remain a good bet for another two weeks. Most offshore fishing is now restricted to the Canyons with the exception of giant bluefin tuna which are well entrenched at Block Island and the Butterfish Hole. There has also been evidence of a run beginning to develop at the Western Mud Hole.

EAST END BAYS & INLETS

Frank Pelosa of **Corr's Mariner's Cove** in **Hampton Bays** looked over a catch of 12 fluke to 5 pounds made at the Inlet by Fred Wachter of Roslyn on Saturday. Winter flounder were also in the picture over the long holiday weekend as demonstrated by Gerry Marcus and Hilda Schoen who took 18 flatties between 1 and 1 ½ pounds at the Ponquogue Bridge on worm and mussel chum on Monday. The best of the offshore fishing seems to be to the SE at the Butterfish Hole where giant tuna have been attracting a crowd of boats. The Alimar returned with a 380 pounder on Monday.

Nearby at **Molnar's Landing**, Lanny Molnar confirmed Frank's report of good tuna action at the Butterfish Hole. He also spoke of good bluefish-

Rudy Kirzan of Bayside shows two true albacore that he trolled aboard his boat Full Moon south of Shinnecock Inlet. Photo courtesy of Corr's Mariner's Cove.

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ing in 90' of water on wire and umbrella rigs for fish in the 6-8 pound class. Inside the Bay, Pat Peligrino and family returned from buoy 17 in Shinnecock Bay with 110 flounder up to 3½ pounds on Monday. They used fresh skimmer clams for bait and chummed heavily with mussels. Lots of blackfish now at the inlet jetty on fiddler crabs and snapper fishing and crabbing remains slow.

Buoy 42 in **Moriches Bay** produced good catches of flounder over Labor Day weekend. Jeff at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** said that both worms and dyed clams along with mussel or corn chum produced nice catches of flatties. Fluke fishing remained good off of the C.G. Station on spearing and squid with nearly all of the fish taken being keepers. Small blues from 1-2 pounds abundant at the inlet and excellent crabbing now underway in Seatuck Cove.

Gary Grunseich at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** said that fluking had slowed late last week but had bounced back by Sunday with the top of the tide producing anywhere from 10 to 15 keepers a boat in the Inlet area. On outgoing water, there was some good fluke action on the flats outside of Hart's Cove. Some good flounder scores made in 6' of water near buoy 42 during incoming tide on Sunday and Monday. Buoy 33 produced best on the Ebb. Worms, clams and mussel or corn chum were the ticket. Gary reminded that Hart's Cove is well supplied with both snappers and crabs.

Large numbers of big Blue Claws continue to dominate the report from **Stiriz's Fishing Station** in **Mastic Beach**. Gary Stiriz said that rings and traps are accounting for catches between 80 and 160 crabs between buoys 9 & 17. Rich and George Collette were high hook in this department with 162 crabs on Saturday. Snappers are good with some approaching a pound being taken at buoy 17. Matt Perrone had 97 here on incoming water with spearing over the weekend. Sea bass and blowfish are mixed together for sinker bouncers between buoys 15 & 21 on squid or clams.

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GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

A very good supply of 1-2½ pound weakfish remain concentrated in the East bay off of Brows River according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Squid strips are taking the weaks along with a few kingfish. Snappers have slowed a bit from the piers but boatmen continue to catch all they want. Blue Claw crabs have been holding up very well helping to pick up the slack left by snappers for a dock fisherman. Henry Schoenfeld of Medford brightened the freshwater scene with a pair of largemouths from a local Patchogue lake. The bass, taken on live killies, weighed 4.1 pounds and 2¼ pounds.

Lots of small weaks at buoy 15 with 25-30 fish catches not unusual over the weekend. This according to Vinnie of **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville**. Squid strips work best on these fish. Also small weaks mixed with some kingfish ½ to 1 mile off of Sayville. Lots of small porgies, sea bass and kingfish in the channel from buoy 15 to Ocean Beach.

Another report supporting the large numbers of weaks in the east bay came from **J & R Sport Center** in **Oakdale**. Dave Canale named buoys 4 and 5 and off of Browns River as scenes of fast action with weaks between 1 and 3 pounds on squid strips, sandworms and nightcrawlers. Some decent fluking on the weekend between west channel and the inlet but the flatties definitely appear to be gathering for their move offshore. Blackfishing on the Kismet Reef is off to a good start with some fine catches of fish up to 6 and 7 pounds made there over the weekend. 14 year old Glen Ayres weighed in a 3½ pound largemouth bass which he took on a live killie in Brookwood Hall.

Fluking remained more than worthwhile over the weekend particularly in West Channel. This word from Irene at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**. Irene's young daughter, Lisa even managed 2 nice fluke herself aboard the private boat Taste of Honey. Small weakfish were taken at Heckscher on squid strips while some bigger weaks were caught on live snappers between the Lighthouse and the WR buoy. Small blues still roam the inlet with some larger fish up to 5 pounds outside the inlet. Good snapper fishing has been the rule at East Islip Marina for the past several days.

According to Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee**, fluke fishing held up very well in the West Channel area but he will still be making his scheduled switch over to blackfish on Monday, September 13th. This skipper knew of some very good catches of blacks already made at the Kismet Reef and on Bay wrecks.

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore** said that fluking remained good over the long weekend with the inlet producing the best scores although there was a shot of fish along the beach outside the inlet to the east. Blackfishing on the Kismet Reef is off to a good start with both fiddlers and green crabs producing some good catches. Jim Caramella of North Babylon had a 5¾ pound tautog among his catch along with some porgies and several sea bass up to 2½ pounds. Still a few small weaks mixed with some kingfish off of Heckscher on sandworms or squid strips while some bigger weaks along with some very big blues are being taken on live snappers near the WR buoy. Snapper fishing and crabbing at local docks continues to be good with both now very good size. A mixture of

The annual fishing outing for the Philips clan resulted in this catch of over 100 fluke. The trip was made out of Captree. Subscriber photo.

blues, bonito and false albacore were trolled Monday SE of the inlet in 80' of water. Carl knew that the canyon was alive over the weekend with lots of true albacore, a decent number of big eye tuna and a few yellowfins taken by those who made the run.

Over at **Captree**, good fluke fishing was the rule over the weekend as the fish begin concentrating for their offshore migration. Good fishing was had from West Channel to the Light and from the Bridge to the Inlet. Blackfishing got off to a good start with decent numbers of nice size fish taken on the Kismet reef. Bluefish remain a nemesis as they provide sporadic action. Most skippers are hoping that the fall run will develop as usual. For pier fishermen, good snapper action at both the Fisherman's Wharf and Robert Moses Piers.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** said that while bluefishing has been generally slow, they took a ride to the SW Sunday night and found a leap job with over 1000 blues coming over the rails. On Monday a slow pick of blues was spiced with some albacore and bonito action.

Capt. Dan Juettner of the open boat **Capt. Dan** said that flounder fishing has been surprisingly good consider ing the early date inside the Sore Thumb Cove. Fluke fishing seems to be enjoying a surge of life as the fish are schooling up in the inlet area. Nearly all of the fluke being taken are keepers and some respectable fish are being taken.

Due to a last minute cancellation, Capt. Ed Laske of the charter boat **Dixie** asked us to let customers know that he now has Sunday, September 19th open along with a few October dates for flounder, blackfish and blues.

Capt. Frank Zory of the **Babylon Captain's Assoc.** charter boat **Tiichi** called to say that he loaded up on Saturday with a mixed bag of porgies, sea bass, blackfish and blowfish on the Kismet reef. Skimmer clams turned the trick. Another Association boat the **Luci II** fished a party headed by Fred Burns and got in on some good sea bass action while anchored over an offshore wreck.

Fred Austin of **Augies Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon** looked over some good catches of blackfish made on the

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Kismet Reef and from the Sore Thumb over the weekend. West Channel to the Inlet continued to produce good catches of fluke with Jack Jacobs putting 14 flatties aboard his Gin-Jack at the Inlet. A surprisingly good showing of flounder between the Sore Thumb and Oak Beach with catches of 60-70 per boat made in recent days. The best bluefish action in the area has moved well off the beach to 90' of water while the small blues that have been congesting the inlet appear to be thinning out. Offshore, the Babylon Tuna Club held its shark contest over the weekend with Phil Bruckner of the Skipper winning the event with a 250 pound blue shark. Bob Schwartz ran his Pride & Joy to the canyon on Sunday and returned with 21 true albacore. Fred also knew that a good number of big eye tuna were taken at the distant fishing grounds.

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** relayed word of a fine catch of blackfish made by Gerry Koenig, Marla Lewis, Don Trietline, Anna Shanahan at the Kismet Reef. The group totalled 45 tautog to 6 pounds as well as 10 nice size sea bass. Don and Gene Hirsch returned with 12 blackfish including a 6 pounder taken by 11 year old Gene. The Sore Thumb pocket produced some nice flounder catches on worms and clams over the weekend while fluke fishing remained in good shape at the inlet. Those patiently fishing live snappers for fluke have been taking some quality fish between 4 and 5 pounds. Emmy Piombino worked Squaw Island to the tune of 51 sea bass on Saturday. Very good snapper fishing and crabbing in the area and reports of some big blues SE of the Inlet.

Capt. Len of the **Lindenhurst** charter boat **Fishfinder** returned to port on Saturday with 20 blues and bonito up to 7 pounds for Vinnie Lappani, Vinnie, Jr., and Tony Biello. They were trolled 10 miles SW of F.I. Inlet on umbrella rigs despite rough sea conditions. Sunday's charter for Ray Martoranna, Lou Bernardo and Paul Letterberg wound up a day's trolling near the Three Sisters Wreck with 15 blues and bonito.

Members of the law firm Martin and Molinan show some of the 35 big blues they took trolling and jigging in 110' of water south of Fire Island Inlet. Fishing was done aboard the Babylon charter boat, "Luci II."

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Eight-year-old Adam Carnese proudly displays a fine 4 lb. fluke taken on his dad's boat in Fire Island Inlet. Subscriber photo.

Gary at **Jonas Bait and Tackle** in **Copiague** spoke of a good mixed bag being worked over at Copiague Hole, Massapequa Cove and Short Beach. Blackfish are at the local bridges and at the Kismet reef on fiddlers and snappers are fantastic throughout the area.

From **Capt. Jack's West** in **Amity Harbor**, Bob Rose knew that tuna showed at the mud hole this past week. He called the blues scattered with fish moving around between 80 and 100' of water SE of F.I. Inlet. West Channel still producing good catches of small porgies and sea bass while snappers and crabs have been occupying the multitudes at the Town Dock.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY

John Dombrowski of **Pop's Fishing Station** in **Seaford** called the fishing generally good in his area with a mixed bag of blackfish, porgies, sea bass, blowfish, crabs, flounder and fluke accounting for the bulk of the action. Those who want to concentrate on flounder should direct their efforts between the J.B. piers and the M.B. Bridge. Fair fluke fishing for those who work at it at the bridges and Haunts Creek. John Stoehr chummed Massapequa cove with sandeels and took 65 big snappers on spearing bait. Best crabbing in the area is on the flats north of the Amity cut where they are being scooped.

On the open boat **Chinco II**, Capt. Brian reported good flounder fishing throughout the week although it did slow over the weekend due to moon tides. Ray Thompson had 35 flatties on Tuesday's trip and returned on Wednesday to take 39 more.

Lots of snappers from the local docks and pretty good crabbing said Lon of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford**. Dave Anderson scooped a ½ bushel of Blue Claws from local canals one morning this week. Despite slow fluking, Lon expects the summer flatties to be around for another 2 or 3 weeks. Flounder fishing has been unusually good but this action is confined to deep water holes. Those looking for a mixed bag should anchor up in Massapequa cove while those on the weakfish hunt are advised to try livelining snappers at Black Bank, The 3rd Bridge, or Haunts Creek.

The 3rd Bridge and Great Island Channel continue to produce a pick of fluke according to Art Wright of **Eddies Fishing Station** in **Seaford**. Most anglers are working over a mixed bag which includes porgies, sea bass, blackfish, blowfish, and flounder. The bridges and Mass. Cove producing this fine action. A good supply of blacks at the bridges if the catch made by Al and Eddie Lorne is any indication. The pair used fiddler crabs at the third bridge on Sunday to put away 104 tautogs. The canal out front has been producing more than its share of snappers and crabs.

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reported a mixed bag of "everything" for Ann and Steve Weiss of Massapequa Park on Saturday. They fished the 3rd Wantagh with worms and clam and clam chum. Plenty of flounder being taken in deep water holes between the M.B. bridge and the J.B. piers. A good supply of weakfish and blues being worked over by boatmen on the tin can grounds using Tiger Tails. Plenty of snappers and crabs locally.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

From **Freeport Boatmens Association** we hear that fluke was the best bet for the weekend. The bluefishing was good at times, but the fish were picky and scattered at others although fair catches of weaks have been mixed in. The Christie Lee had codfish at the Virginia wreck with 30 lbers. the rule. Flounder should be building strongly shortly. The **Super Spray II** had excellent fluking all week long in Jones Inlet and along the beaches. On October 3rd Capt. Jim will take the SS II on one of his super offshore wreck trips. There's a 60-man limit so if interested, reserve quickly.

The canyon opened up Saturday reported **Lou's Fishing Station** with

Young Chris Weiss of Massapequa brought this fine bass into Merrick Tackle in Bellmore for weighing. It was taken in a local neighborhood pond.

Junior angler Brad Topper shows a pair of blues taken on a recent trip aboard the Freeport open boat, "Starstream II."

yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna, big eyes and longfin albacore caught. Dave, Rick and Will along with Paul Abuzzi, all of Freeport had a 210 lb. big eye tuna and 7 longfin tuna to 76 lbs. An 80 lb. bluefin tuna taken by Larry Festa at the Virginia on the boat GM II. Fishing at the Texas Tower several members of the Freeport Tuna Club had a bluefin tuna, 7 false albacore, several oceanic bonito and a mess of blues. Party boats jigged the tuna Monday, up to 125 lbs. plus a good load of bluefish. Bob Catropa on his boat Pisces anchored and chummed and fished Montauk Race at Cholera and ended up with 300 lbs. of blues. A few fluke still remain to be caught in the inlet area. Flounder fishing has been fair to good and blackfishing is on the upswing.

Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** had giant blues and some tuna Monday fishing far off around the Virginia wreck. Fred Stenek, Ossining, had 2 albacore from 10-12 lbs. Kevin Ferber, Queens Village, had a 34 lb. bluefin tuna. Allen Stalines, Copiague took a 15 lb. tuna. Donna St. Jaques scored with a 30 lb. bluefin tuna. Cindy Miller of Bethpage and Pat Lanni, Farmingdale, hoisted a 31 lb. bluefin tuna, 2 big albies and 3 14 lb. blues. Fishing has been good all week said the skipper though earlier in the week bluefish were on the small side. Thursday was good with high hook being 40 fish from 1-3 lbs. Fish are found in different areas, different days. Richie classified the night fishing as only fair.

Aboard the **Capt. Lou Fleet**, super flounder fishing was had this week according to skipper Mike Dannon. On the full day boat high hooks ranged in the 50s and 60s. On Thursday, John DeRosa of Valley Stream caught 67 flatties while Herb Schwarz of Long Beach had 53. Dave Podel of Mt. Vernon was happy with 43 fish and Joe Dwyer of Rockville Centre

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totalled 41 flounder. Randy Meiwsen, Levittown, hoisted 62 flounder. Things slowed a lot on the weekend due to heavy boat traffic. Even so, high hooks were in the 40s. Ed Kolakowski, Glen Cove had 45 fish on Monday on the **CL IV**, the half day boat with Capt. Doug running the show, a very good week was had. Friday afternoon's trip saw a Mr. Young with 50 flounder. Vic the Chiropractor socked it to 42 flatties while on Sunday Artie Eliot of Bayside had 52 flounder and also took the pool. Doug found the slaughter spot all right. Howard Daderian, Forest Hills had 35 fish. Plenty of great action said Mike, with sea bass, porgies, blues, blows, fluke and kingfish mixed in.

Captain Sy Carlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** had blues this week to the southwest up to 12 lbs. High hook was 14 fish on Friday. He classified the bluefishing as fair this week. Sixty blues was the score on Wednesday's trip, fish to 5 lbs. with bonito mixed in. A few cod were also caught during the week on the diamond jigs. Locally good flounder with mixed in sea bass, porgies and blowfish have been caught by fares. A 2 lb. flounder was caught Sunday near the Jones Beach piers.

The **Capt. Andy** has switched over to two flounder trips a day and finished the fluking with a resounding 7½ lber. for visitor Pete Heber of Ohio Friday. The skipper found flounder very good locally in Swift Creek and waters thereabouts. They ran 3/4 to 2 lbs. and are fat, eating bloodworms with great gusto.

Aboard Capt. Gary Smith's charter boat **Roseanne** Monday's wreck trip had 30 cod to 8 lbs., several blues to 12 lbs., sea bass to 3lbs., and 6 blackfish. This was all on clam bait while on the hook. Sunday's trip for Phil Zolli and party had a catch of bonito from 7-8 lbs. on trolled wire and umbrellas.

Over in **Baldwin,** Mike at **Arthur St. Fishing Station** called the flounder he saw brought in, good, with Glen Skolnick and Charlie Levine working Baldwin Bay with bloodworms for

Jim Hill caught this 8¼ lb. doormat aboard the open boat "Miss Point Lookout."

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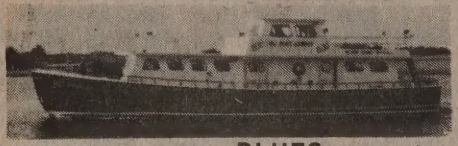

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mixed size catches of 32 flounder. There were many other flounder catches during the week. A few fluke were taken from the inlet this weekend and some blues to 13 lbs. were taken by trolled umbrellas. Lots of blue claw crabs still around.

Down in **Pt. Lookout** the **Capt. Bill** had good flounder catches with nice catches of porgies, sea bass and blacks mixed in most of the week. High hooks have been 15 flounder on the half day trips, along with catches of sea bass and porgies. Porgies are running from 1/2 to 1 lb. Catches would be better if the water were not so cold, but since there's a little good in everything, continued cold water will goose up the flounder catches shortly.

A call from Capt. Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** serves to pass on the word that on Monday the boat fished Three Sisters and jigged 4-8 lb. blues for a fair to good catch. This was in rough conditions. On Tuesday, bonito were fished south of the Sisters and trolled on feathers, fish 4-8 lbs. Wednesday saw mixed flounder, porgies, blacks, blows and small sea bass at the Meadowbrook Bridge and Swift Creek and Reynolds. Sunday was a repeat of Wednesday, mainly sea bass and flounders in Reynolds in the morning. In the afternoon they fished Sea dog creek for fat, 1-1½ lb. flatties. Then it was into Reynolds for small to medium flounder and sea bass, porgies, blacks and blows. Monday's charter had albacore to 15 lbs. at the Virginia, bonito to 10 lbs., skippies to 12 lbs. Many mini giants in the 100-200 lb. class were sighted. Capt. Dennis used feathers for his tuna catches.

Aboard the half day flounder boat **Miss Point Lookout**, Saturday, Sunday and Monday saw excellent flounder catches on the last of the flood. High hooks have been ranging in the 20s with 100 plus fish being taken per trip. A 7½ lb. fluke was taken Monday. Sunday's total was 75 fluke. The skipper has now switched to flounder and will be working in a few fluke drifts on the choice piece of the tide as well as concentrating on the flounder.

Ed's Fishing Station reported fluking slow, but some fish caught in Reynolds nonetheless. There were good flounder catches from Swift Creek, Short Beach area and east of the Meadowbrook bridge. Blackfishing is good at the bridges and jetties on fiddlers and green crabs, while sand porgies and sea bass are also being picked in Reynolds. A real variety of fish.

Scotty's Fishing Station reports flounder have been the best item during the past week with worms working best in Swift Creek and buoys 16 and 17 in Reynolds. Some fluke were caught in these areas as well. Blues and bonito were trolled in 55' of water off Lido. Good blackfishing at the T wreck on fiddlers, fish running 1½ to 4 lbs.

Further west in **Island Park**, Capt.

Clem of the **Commodore** advised that Saturday was the last of his regular fluke trips. The switch was made to flounder Sunday with good catches of flounder, sea bass and porgies made at buoys 18 and 19 near Reynolds. On Monday fares picked all day with a couple of the last fluke being caught and also a sprinkling of flounder, sea bass and porgies. Flounder will build as the water cools.

Richie at **Beckman's Tackle** in **Island Park** tells of plenty of flounder being caught at the Meadowbrook Bridge, Short Bridge, Swift Creek and the Jones Beach Piers, outgoing water best. Fluke have been hitting big baits such as big smelt outside the inlet this past week. Crabbing is excellent at Bay Park and Baldwin Bay with nights being especially good with lights and nets. Blacks increasing at the bridges, jetties and wrecks.

Over at **Atlantic Beach**, **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** tells of good blackfishing at the AB bridge and Silver Point Jetty on fiddler crabs and clam. Fluke are getting spotty with the best being off Riis but hunting for them is necessary. Weaks at the Tin Can have been spotty while flounder on worms have been scattered around the bay.

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the guide boat **Kim** says that at the Tin Can Grounds andthe channels nights have become much better than days for weaks 7-10 lbs. Some stripers now into the 20s are also being taken at night on the bottom on drifted worms and also on Nordic eels. Some albies and bonito also on diamond jigs, umbrellas and Nordic eels.

Further west in Long Beach, Jerry Resnick had a 25 lb. bass trolled at the fire house at Indiana St. on white bucktail on the bottom. Lots of schoolies being taken east and west of the AB bridge on these white bucktails. Ed Rindfleisch grinned after catching 19 blues from 8-21 lbs. trolled on bunker spoons in 30' of water off Long Beach. A few flounder being taken behind Duck Pt. Some fluke still being caught in the inlets. Blacks at the gong and AB bridge and 28th St. wreck on fiddlers. Sharpies are hitting weaks at night on Nordic eels and incoming tide.

Howard Besermer (in photo) and Nancy Berger caught 24 fluke, including this 7 lber., off of the Rockaways on live killies. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Bait & Tackle.

NEW YORK BIGHT

In **East Rockaway, Skippy's Bait & Tackle** said that the fluking had been okay but looks very much as though it's on its way out for the season. Flounder action has been good in Swift Creek, around the Meadowbrook Bridge and the Loop Parkway Bridge. Blackfish are hitting fiddler crabs at the AB bridge and Silver Point jetty. Bass and weaks continue good especially at night at the Tin Can No surf news on bass. Snappers and blue claw crabs and sand porgies continue very good in Bay Park.

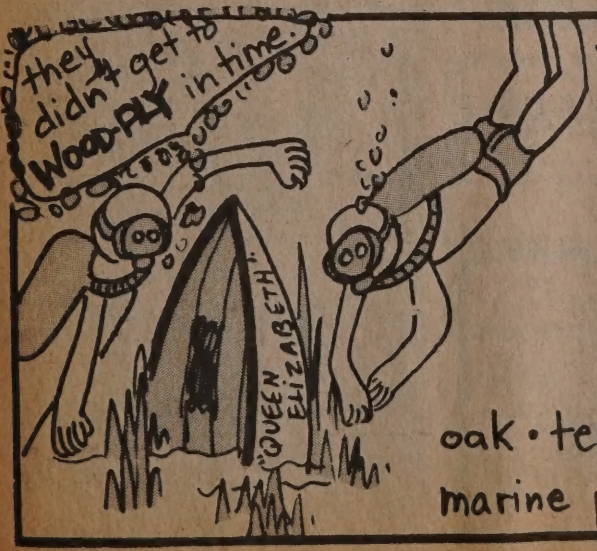
To the west in **Jamaica Bay**, John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in **Howard Beach**, reminds us there are loads and loads of porgies all over the bay, that the bay is simply infested with them. Snappers are fair and there are some good fluke catches at Ruffle Bar and Marine Parkway bridge on killies and squid. BCCs have been very good as to size but not numbers, while blacks and flounder have started their fall upswing.

To the west in **Sheepshead Bay** Capt. Butch of the **Zephyr** had excellent fluking Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at West Bank Light. Saturday and Sunday were decent but not as hot. Monday the boat fished Romer Shoals and bigger fish were caught in the 2-4 lb. range. Butch says they are fighting cold water that's coming in on the flood tide. You can feel it on the fish and on the sinkers. He will be staying with fluke since Butch feels there are still loads of fish in the back which have to come out on their way to their yearly migration offshore.

Capt Mike Brumm of the charter boat **Daybreaker** says that the day fishing has been tough for weaks and blues and that best catches are now being made from sunset through the night and at dawn with outgoing water a big plus factor. Weaks still running 7-10 lbs., still suckers for the Nordic eels. A good amount of 3-6 lb. bass are being taken on worms at night. On Monday some of the party boats ran far enough off the beach so that they were into tuna which they managed to diamond jig.

John at **Stella Maris Tackle** tells of nice blacks and porgies being taken in Jamaica Bay with decent weaks being taken at night, though not quite as many as previously. Some bass being taken at night on worms, bucktails and umbrellas. The fluking has been good during the week at Riis Park and Ambrose Channel. The **Pilot II** has been having very good blackfishing off the Jersey rocks. Good blackfishing also being had at the Marine Pkwy bridge.

Over in **Staten Island**, Lenny at **Santo's Sporting Goods** advises that at Great Kills Harbor things are dynamite at night for big weaks and blues on bunker chunks. Blues are running 15-17 lbs. and weaks 8-10 lbs. Daytime is seeing plenty of porgies,



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snappers and small blues caught there. Snappers and porgies are all over the Staten Island shore line, with fluke on their way out. A few fluke in the channels off the jetty and off the Stapleton piers. Small stripers at Cliff Street and Penny Beach from shorts to 5 lbers. on outgoing water munching sand worms. For big blues and weaks for daytime boat fishermen it's the area off New Dorp and Cedar Grove Beach. These fish are following bunker schools. Cooler weather should see an increase in the striper activity at the VZ bridge, Penny Beach and CLiff St.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

Moderate winds and pleasant temperatures made for a fine Labor Day weekend. Bluefish were tops almost everywhere on the Sound, with some large fish in the harbors of the western Sound. Small blues predominate elsewhere. Porgies are the steadiest bottom pick with the fall blackfish peak only a few weeks away.

WESTERN SOUND

The best action around New Rochelle occurred at mid-week last week, according to **John's Gun & Tackle.** Fish to 12 lbs. were taken on chunks off Captains Island.

Jack's Bait & Tackle weighed a couple of gorilla blues last week when Chris Engel produced a 22 lb. fish and Vin Sindelar brought in a 21 lb. monster. Both fish were taken livelining. Flounder are off the local docks, snappers are in by the millions, and the first blackfish are already showing off Execution Rock.

Pete Pearson called to tell us that the **Klondike VIII** from New Rochelle has enjoyed super bluefish action with high hooks to 40s. Cocktail sized blues are the rule from Smithtown to Mattituck, but Friday's spree included some 3-7 lb. fish. A trip to the Canyon last week produced big game action for 26 anglers who saw 18 longfin albacore to 40 lbs, four yellowfin tuna to 125 lbs., and one white marlin of about 55 lbs. come aboard. Pearson feels that the next three-day trip on the 20th may be even better with warmer water temperatures.

Among the City Island fleet, Dom Cerbone has been hauling porgies with the **Apache.** Fish in sections around Buoys 11B and 24C are in 55-60' of water and require sinkers of 6-8 oz. on moon tides. Up to 20 scup per angler is a possibility, and 1-1½ lb. fish are the norm with fish

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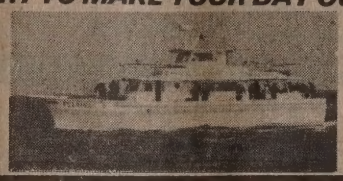

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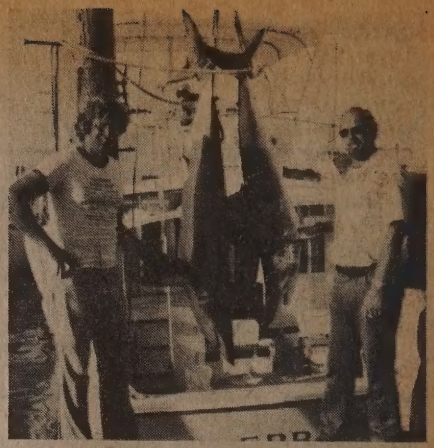


Capt. Joe Ferrara and Charles Funicello with makos of 112 and 70 lbs. caught at Montauk on Joe's "Ebb Tide IV."

to 3½ lbs. occasionally showing. Dom has seen porgies to 4 lbs. this season. The **North Star** is also banging in good numbers of porgies, while the **Ebb Tide** continues to jig for bluefish.

Phil Nasi at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** suggests plugging for local blues in sundown and sunup action or fishing around Hempstead Harbor. Carl Smith had a 6 lb. bass on a popper, but bluefish sizes are larger, with 8-12 pounds not unusual.

Frank Ackley of the **Tarpon** pulled a big haul of bluefish on jigs and downriggers for Mr. and Mrs. Allen Shepps. They found the fish on top on Monday and joined Joe Fink on the **Lady Lil.** Fink continues to do a leap job anywhere from Makamha to the Norwalk Islands with AVA 27s and 47s and figures his high hook in the upper 40s. He's fishing daytimes only.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Some of the blues around the OB off Huntington have touched the 16 lb. mark, according to Bob Cedar at **Huntington Prop.** Cold Spring Harbor and the mouth of Huntington Inlet can produce a few fish from 8 to 13 lbs., and Eatons and Crab Meadow are worth a try, according George Valentine at the **4 Winds.** Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's** had seen a few blues to 10 lbs. taken at night on bunker in Huntington Bay. Worm trolled bass are still small and flounder are showing off Target Rock. Some of the biggest porgies of the year are being pushed by bluefish schools. Valentine weighed a 3 lb. 5 oz. scup recently, and Mark Luciani displayed the biggest fluke of the season at 4 Winds and Huntington Prop. The doormat went 12 lbs. 10 oz. and took a bucktail with pork rind, trolled on a downrigger.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** feels that the blues are working back west with Monday's catch between the Oil Dock and Port Jefferson. There are 20-30 different pods

of blues anywhere from 2 to 6 lbs. Tiger Stripe jigs of 2 oz. work well, and tubes 3' above the jigs often account for doubleheaders. Packy advises his fares to watch the ads for changes in sailing times and days of the week.

The **Aqua Gem** from Port Jefferson also has enjoyed banner bluefish days, but is cancelling nights unless requests are made. Saturday's trip produced some large fish.

Bowman's in Northport saw most of the harbor action on bluefish between 6-7 AM, with off-on fishing over the weekend. Small blues to 3 lbs. were concentrated off Sunken Meadow and Fort Salonga about a mile off the beach.

Porgy fishing off Oldfield was described as very good on fish to 2 lbs. by Tim Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station.** Most of the fish are near the Buoys in 30' of water and anglers have at least one good hour a day. Small blues are off Buoy 11, but anglers off the Middle Grounds have trolled fish to 16 lbs.

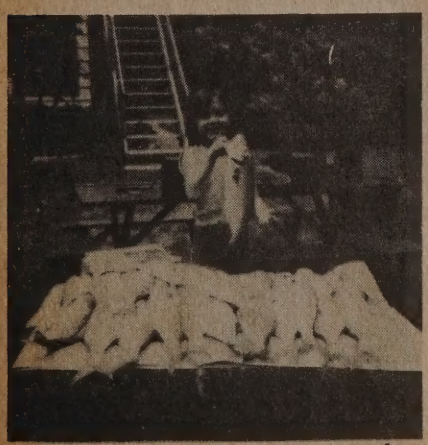
Although fluke are moving into deeper water, Dick Brown at **Dick's** in Mount Sinai still feels that White Beach and the second stair off Miller Place are worth trying. Best porgy fishing is outside Mount Sinai Harbor, according to **Ralph's.**

Sharpies drift to find the fish, then anchor up. Snappers continue to show well throughout the area.

NORTH FORK

The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** saw good porgy catches off the Beachcomber in 35-40' of water with fish all the way to 3 lbs. Fluking at the Inlet has died, but those who troll between Buoy 5 and the Pipeline may find some huge blues to 15 lbs. Blackfish are mixing with the porgies already.

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** in Aquebogue heard of early bunker chunking action, but feels that the most reliable action is on porgies and weaks in the Bay. One porgy



Kerry Stuven and a mess of blues caught by her dad and a neighbor aboard the Huntington open boat, "Ever Ready."

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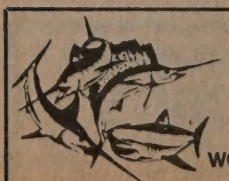

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Bob DiGirolamo, of Commack, displays the 6 lb. 3 oz. largemouth bass that he took from a Long Island pond back in June. A 6" black, rubber worm turned the trick.

party returned with 18 weaks in a ctach, and Sal Loria at **Captain Marty's** in New Suffolk registered 29 weaks in one boat. High hook squid and worm is best off Roses Grove and the South Race. A few boats working the North Race find blowfish mixed with the porgies as well.

Jim Dunkirk at the **Port of Egypt** figures that fluking is tailing off now, but diehards can still find a few fish off the station in Orient. Flounder are now on both sides of the Point but seem bigger on the Bay. John Rainis worked over the flatties with clams and worms on the **Blue Albatross** on Monday, then rounded out the catch with blackfish to 5 lbs. off the Orient Light.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport saw blues from the Race and Pigeon Rip running 5-9 lbs., and good porgies from the Black Can off Gardiners. The open boats, **Brand X** and **Peconic Star**, are chasing their big porgies off New London.

Lots of small porgies were still available off Buoy 16 with larger porgies becoming vulnerable in the South Ferry area, now that the moon tides are easing up.

Dave Kappell showed a 35 lb. bass to Art White, but there is a rumor of a monster taken by an angler named Parillo on the last moon.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

The Long Island surf fishing picture continues to make a gradual transitin from summer to fall patterns with the most noticable difference being th increase in activity along area beaches.

As far as the fishing itself is concerned, this week's spell of NE winds may help to move things along with the most likely effect being the first of the mullet making their way out of south shore bays. South shore casters should make sure their lure bags contain at least 1 or 2 blue poppers and a surface swimmer (Jr. Atom or Danny) of the same hue in the weeks ahead.

Big blues are slowly infiltrating north shore beaches and school bass action has perked up on both shores.

Montauk has been suffering through an influx of small blues but look for this scene to change abrubtly. Weakfish, along with a sprinkling of bass should be settling in for their September fling "up front" by mid-month.

The best bet in the Staten Island are, according to Lenny Killoran of **Santo's Sport Shop**, are the big blues (15-17 pounds) and weaks (8-10) which are being taken from the bar at the mouth of Great Kills Harbor. Action is all after dark on live or chunked bunker. Cocktail blues still provide daytime action around all area beaches and some school bass activity at Penny Beach and Cliff

(Continued on page 50.)

Jerry Barkey, of Bellmore, beached this 11¾ lb. weak in the Fire Island surf on jointed Rebel back in August. Subscriber photo.

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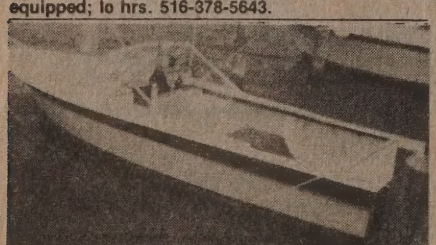

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23' SEA RAY, Repowered with complete 1981 OMC I/O, fishfinder, VHS, CB. Plus many extras. Best Offer. Must sell. 203-531-4173.

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1977 21' Mackie cuddy cabin. Sleeps 2; 198 h.p. Merc. I/O, power trim, VHF, CB. Depth recorder, 51 gal. tank, CG pkg. Full canvas, dual batt., 3-way switch w/lock & more. $7500. With E-Z Loader Trailer $8500. Ready to go. 212-639-6135 Eves.

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17' 1968 OLDTOWN, Deep V runabout. All fiberglass; 75 h.p. Johnson. Teleflex steering; trailer. All good cond. $1895. After 5PM 516-567-1714.

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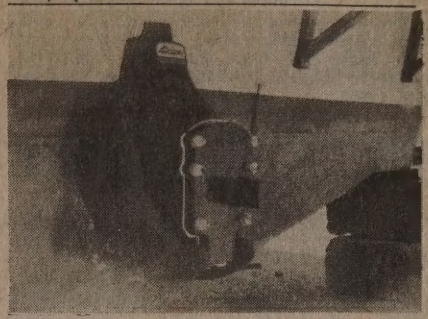

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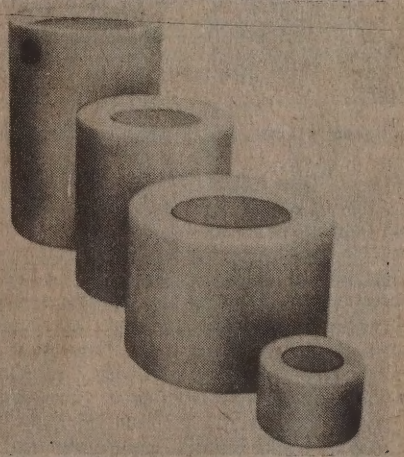

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Street. This is mostly sandworms on outgoing water with a few fish taken on Rebels or Redfins.

The rock piles between the eastern reaches of Atlantic Beach and the Silver Point Jetty have been the scene of some periodic spurts of bass activity with fish in the 5-15 pound range taking Rebels and Red Fins just before dark or in the early morning hours. This info courtesy of Bernie Haag of **Long Beach Sports Marina**.

Inside F.I. Inlet, small blues still show from time to time at the Sore Thumb according to Poppy of **Suffolk Marine Tackle** in **Babylon.** Live snappers accounted for some nice fluke last week but no weakfish and no word on any bass from this area.

Dave Canale looked over a pair of stripers weighed in by one caster who requested anonymity and also left no info on the whereabouts on this catch. Nonetheless the fish weighed in at 18 and 24½ pounds.

The **Moriches** surf was quiet this past week according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Paul placed part of the blame on the dredge working at the inlet which created dirty surf conditions. He was able to confirm that there was a brief flurry of bass action along this stretch of shore last week.

Action perked up in **Shinnecock Inlet** last Thursday night with some bass from schoolies to 20 pounds taken from the east side jetty on eels, Red Fins and bucktails. According to Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in **Southampton** however, all was quiet here on Friday and Saturday. The only bluefish news that Thom had concerned a brief run of fish along the sand beach near Sagaponack early this past week.

Small bluefish remain the sole source of action at **Montauk** according to Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in Montauk. The fish are scattered along south side sand beaches, in the south side rocks and were taken under the light in the early morning hours during the week. The only exception to the blues were a couple of weaks taken by wet suiters in the area of the fort.

Up on the north shore some big blues in Western Harbors and along the open beaches on bunker chunks. Some fish occasionally being taken on poppers or swimming plugs as well. Mid-sound beaches have some mixed sized blues from 2-10 pounds, early mornings and evenings on poppers and swimmers with a few school bass mixed in. After dark, some scattered schoolie action on Rebels and Red Fins.

To the east, Stan Henchel of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that blues in the 2-5 pound range continue to pump life into the local scene. They're being taken on poppers and Tri-Fin spoon jigs mornings and evenings. A few bass also along local beaches but no concentrations of fish at any particular area. Stan knew that bunker chunks continue to produce big blues in the 10-14 pound range after dark between Mount Sinai and Shoreham.

Little change in the North Fork report with 3-5 pound blues still being taken at Mattituck inlet and along nearby beaches according to Ed Kopack of **Warren's Tackle Shop** in **Aquebogue**. Ed did know that boatmen took some big blues on mackerel chunks in close to the beaches but had no reports of any of these fish taken from the beach.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	12:20	12:50	1:00	1:35	12:50	1:25	2:00	2:25	3:35	3:55	3:45	4:10	12:25	1:00	9/9
FRI.	1:20	1:50	1:55	2:35	1:50	2:25	3:00	3:25	4:35	4:55	4:45	5:10	1:25	2:00	9/10
SAT.	2:25	2:55	3:05	3:45	2:55	3:30	4:10	4:30	5:35	6:00	5:50	6:20	2:30	3:05	9/11
SUN.	3:35	4:05	4:15	4:55	4:10	4:45	5:20	5:40	7:00	7:20	7:00	7:25	3:35	4:10	9/12
MON.	4:50	5:15	5:25	6:00	5:25	5:50	6:20	6:45	8:40	9:00	8:10	8:30	4:40	5:10	9/13
TUE.	5:55	6:15	6:35	7:00	6:30	6:55	7:20	7:45	9:50	10:10	9:10	9:35	5:40	6:05	9/14
WED.	6:50	7:10	7:30	7:55	7:25	7:45	8:15	8:35	10:45	11:05	10:05	10:30	6:30	7:00	9/15
THUR.	7:40	7:55	8:25	8:45	8:15	8:35	9:05	9:25	11:35	11:55	11:00	11:20	7:20	7:45	9/16

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pantuck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 42
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
	+1 53
	+2 24
	+3 16
	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Mayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

9/10	6:35	7:19
9/11	6:36	7:18
9/12	6:37	7:16
9/13	6:38	7:14
9/14	6:39	7:12
9/15	6:40	7:10
9/16	6:41	7:08

Moonrise/Moonset

9/10	11:50PM	2:03PM
9/11	—	3:09PM
9/12	12:45AM	4:11PM
9/13	1:47AM	5:04PM
9/14	2:56AM	5:50PM
9/15	4:08AM	6:29PM
9/16	5:20AM	7:03PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/17	9/25	9/3	9/10

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	10:35	4:25	11:05	4:50
Fri.	11:30	5:20	—	5:50
Sat.	12:05	6:15	12:25	6:45
Sun.	12:55	7:10	1:20	7:40
Mon.	1:55	8:05	2:15	8:35
Tues.	2:50	9:05	3:15	9:30
Wed.	3:45	9:55	4:05	10:25
Thurs.	4:40	10:45	4:55	11:10

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